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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Gerasimov 29 Mar Briefing on World Issues

TV Marti Transmissions to Cuba

LD2903165190 Moscow TASS in English 1622 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, March 29 TASS—The trial transmission of television programmes to Cuba by "TV Marti" runs counter to modern positive trends in world politics, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told a briefing here today.

"Washington undertook the action despite protests from the Cuban Government and other countries, including statements by the Soviet side, that such actions are considered contradictory to present-day positive trends that are taking root in world politics," Gerasimov said. The Soviet Union believes that this action contradicts White House declarations about its commitment to the principle of mutual trust in international affairs and to the spirit of new political thinking."

"We hope that the U.S. action will not result in the further escalation of tension in American-Cuban relations and that sensible restraint will triumph and lead to a search for constructive solutions," Gerasimov said. "We urge the United States not to allow such destructive actions with regard to Cuba," he emphasised. "We want it to display goodwill and examine the Cuban proposals for settling outstanding problems at the negotiating table, including the question of radio and television programme exchanges".

Upcoming Hurd, Dumas Visits

LD2903175690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists on current matters of international life took place in Moscow today. It was held by Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate. Most important, in my view, was the report on the upcoming visit to the USSR of Hurd, secretary of state for the foreign and commonwealth office of Great Britain, and French Foreign Minister Dumas.

Describing the upcoming visit by the eminent guest from Great Britain, Comrade Gerasimov said, in particular:

[Begin recording] We regard the visit in question as an important link in a series of major political contacts between the USSR and Great Britain planned for this year. The topical nature of the negotiations is determined by the complexity of the processes now taking place: The changes in Europe, the problem of a German settlement, questions of stability and security in Europe and their linkage with the Helsinki process. All this requires coordinated and interrelated actions by states. This also fully applies to the sphere of disarmament, the settlement of regional conflicts, the implementation of a new structure of national economic ties, and the protection of the environment.

Mr. Dumas, minister of state and minister of foreign affairs of France, will pay a brief visit to Moscow. It is planned that he will have a working meeting with Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze. In this way, Soviet-French political dialogue will be continued. It can be assumed that questions on the situation in Europe will be focused upon by the ministers.

On 26-27 March the first session of the intergovernmental Soviet-French Commission for Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technology Cooperation took place here in Moscow. On the results of its work, a protocol was signed on our side by Comrade Voronin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and on the French side by Mr. Beregovoy, French minister of state and minister of the economy, finance and budget. The commission examined matters connected with progress in the implementation of agreements in the sphere of the economy, science and technology, signed as a result of the Soviet-French summit in Paris in July of last year. The package of these agreements has renewed and expanded the framework of our bilateral ties. The commission has spoken for increasing cooperation in the following areas: digital television and high definition television, civil aviation and aircraft building, telecommunications, the agro-industrial complex, forestry, and transport. The analysis which was carried out at this session has shown that for the time being our cooperation is not in keeping with the possibilities of our two countries and is not in keeping with the level of our political relations. At the same time, at the session of the commission, the intention of both sides to strictly monitor the achievement of real results, including in the sphere of setting up efficiently operating joint enterprises, of training cadres, and of the conversion of the Soviet defense industry, manifested itself clearly. [end recording]

Vatican Representative Appointed

LD2903173990 Moscow TASS in English 1341 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Yuriy Karlov Soviet representative with the rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to maintain contacts with the Vatican, Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said at a briefing here today.

Yuriy Karlov, an ethnic Russian, was born in 1937. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations at the Soviet Foreign Ministry in 1961. He has the scientific degree of master of sciences (law).

After the graduation Karlov worked at the Soviet Embassy in Romania, at the first European department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry and later at the Soviet Embassy in Italy. Between 1978 and 1984 he worked as a counsellor, then minister plenipotentiary-counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Italy and simultaneously as the Soviet consul-general in the Republic of San Marino.

From 1984 to 1986 he worked as deputy head of the first European department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, from 1986 to 1989—as a responsible secretary of the Soviet Commission for UNESCO affairs. In 1987 he became first deputy chairman of that organisation. Between 1987 to 1989 he was a member of the UNESCO Executive Council.

Reportage on Gremitskikh 30 Mar Briefing

Thatcher Cambridge Speech

LD3003143190 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1332 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 30 March (TASS)—In the opinion of the Soviet Union, a number of the ideas and proposals of Great Britains's prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, concerning the future of the Helsinki process, which she outlined in her speech at the session of the Koenigswinter Conference in Cambridge, are "interesting and deserve attention in connection with the forthcoming summit meeting this year between representatives of the CSCE countries." This was declared today at a news briefing by Yuriy Gremitskikh, first deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate.

He noted that, althogh some of them were not incontrovertible, the British prime minister's ideas "require further discussion and do, on the whole, have something in common with the approach of the Soviet Union." The USSR considers that the CSCE process is, in current circumstances, coming to be a vital instrument for creating the all-European home, harmonizing the relations of all countries in the region, and forming a new system of collective security and cooperation in Europe.

Speaking about the forthcoming summit meeting of representatives of the CSCE participant countries, the Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that it could "outline political approaches to the new processes in Europe, determine ways of finally overcoming military confrontation, and define and agree to the European political agenda for the next few years."

"The USSR is prepared to discuss questions of setting up a European legal jurisdiction including the principles of free elections, economic cooperation, and others and it is open for constructive ideas on all of these problems if they are expressed by our partners," Yuriy Gremitskikh said. In this connection, he noted, Margaret Thatcher's ideas are a useful contribution to the current political discussion on European construction.

Desecration of Graves in GDR

LD3003150990 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 30 Mar. (TASS)—"The report on the desecration of a cemetery of Soviet soldiers in the city of Merseburg (GDR), where the majority of gravestones were upturned and damaged, arouses feelings of anger and indignation among Soviet people", Yuriy Gremitskikh, first deputy chief of the Information Administration of the USSR Foreign Ministry stated at a briefing today.

Desecration of the memory of those who fell for the liberation of the peoples of Europe from fascism, he noted, confirms that Hitler's followers are rearing their heads. "We note with concern", the Soviet diplomat said, "that recently the escapades of neo-Nazis have become more frequent, and this cannot fail to cause legitimate alarm." People in the FRG and GDR should know that the process of rapprochement and unification of the two German states will be acepted by the peoples of Europe with understanding only if it is of a democratic and peaceable kind, and is not accompanied by manifestations of nationalist extremism and the rise of the neofascist threat, Yuriy Gremitskikh stressed.

Status of Jerusalem

LD3003151590 Moscow TASS in English 1450 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—The Soviet Foreign Ministry has described the recent Israeli resolution on the status of Jerusalem as "an unlawful" document which does not have any international legal force.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh told a briefing here today that the resolution passed by the Israeli parliament says that "united Jerusalem will always remain under Israel's sovereignty" and that its status and the fate of the annexed Golan Heights "cannot be the subject of any talks."

The resolution also calls on arriving immigrants to settle in all parts of "United Jerusalem."

Gremitskikh emphasised that the UN Security Council had passed several resolutions on the Israeli-occupied territories and the status of Jerusalem which say that Israel's legislative and administrative measures with regard to these territories are invalid and should be abolished.

It is quite obvious, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said, that the international community regards Israeli actions towards Jerusalem and the Golan Heights as unlawful. This is also true of the settling of immigrants on the occupied Arab territories.

The Soviet Union is concerned about Israel's policy and believes that it erects additional obstacles to a Middle East peace settlement, Gremitskikh said.

Shevardnadze Discusses Warsaw Pact Meeting

PM2903140290 London MORNING STAR in English 29 Mar 90 p 4

[Interview with USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, by Olga Trofimova; place, date not given: "Peace in Europe Post-Unification"]

[Text] [Trofimova] The foreign ministers of the Warsaw Treaty member countries have recently concluded their consultative meeting in Prague. What were the results?

[Shevardnadze] It was the first meeting of this kind after the major changes in East Europe. Importantly, it was centred around the German issue, currently the most topical question in European and global politics.

Generally speaking, I was satisfied by the meeting. It was a frank and constructive discussion. Many important and interesting proposals were made in the German issue and concerning European security.

Of course, opinions and approaches differed, which is characteristic of the Soviet Union's relations with its allies. But our positions were close on many fundamental points, though mutual confidence is not yet complete in our relations.

We need time and personal contacts to increase it.

Take my Polish colleague Skubiszewski. I met him several times to reach a new level of mutual understanding. Though our convictions may differ, the constructive spirit takes the upper hand in our discussions.

Really, contacts and confidence mean a great deal.

[Trofimova] Will the Prague meeting bring the resolution of the German issue any closer?

[Shevardnadze] Yes, in a sense. We can make the essential conclusion that the Warsaw Pact lives on and functions and that we need it. Its member countries want to cooperate.

When the necessity for discussions and mutual advice came up at the meeting, I was not the one who raised the issue. Other ministers spoke in favour of a standing working group to bring the standpoints on the German issue to accord. The proposal was backed unanimously.

This means that we need common stances on the prospects for a united Germany—an involved problem—and on the key aspects of collective security in Europe.

We reflected these common interests in our communique.

[Trofimova] And what was said about the military-political status of a future united Germany?

[Shevardnadze] It worries everyone. There are many controversies on this score, and different approaches. But, and I emphasise this, the main thing is to form all-European security structures as guarantees in solving issues of conflict and against confrontation—guarantees which can help to overcome military confrontation and the European split.

There was no unanimity on the adherence of a united Germany to blocs.

I never used the word "neutrality" in our debates—but not because we have given up the idea of German neutrality. A neutral Germany would correspond to both Soviet and European interests.

But then, there are some neutral states with tremendous military potentials.

What matters most is the level of armament. This approach is necessary not only with respect to Germany: The defence sufficiency doctrine must guide all Europeans. Bringing closer the implementation of this policy must be the basic political task.

We can find a common language with our Western partners on this basis.

[Trofimova] Was the need for an improved mechanism for Warsaw Treaty co-operation discussed?

[Shevardnadze] There was unanimity on this point. Our mutual understanding is very good on many aspects and has even improved on some.

The work resulted in agreed formulas on the efforts of the political consulatative committee, the committee of ministers of foreign affairs, and the defence committee.

We have found decisions to satisfy all of us on appointing the commander-in-chief, the interaction of political and military bodies, and some other questions.

The Warsaw Treaty Organisation has to be updated, with the importance of political co-operation increased.

[Trofimova] What do you think of the future of the European process?

[Shevardnadze] Much will depend on the work of the six. The first expert meeting in Bonn has already been held. It showed that the mechanism of the six allows, to some extent, control of German unification.

The next meeting will gather in Berlin in the first half of April. The third will be held at ministerial level. I do not think we will come empty-handed to it.

[Trofimova] Do the dramatic East European changes help in the building of a common European home?

[Shevardnadze] If East European democratic processes gain momentum and become irreversible, things will proceed smoothly: We shall build a European home unhampered.

But if destructive forces, whose presence is already felt in the Soviet Union and other countries, emerge on the scene, it will be much harder to build our home.

As to Soviet interests, a democratic East Europe will best promote them. That is my deep conviction.

Akhromeyev Opposes Unified Germany in NATO

PM3003094690 Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Mar 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Marshal Akhromeyev: 'No Unified Germany in NATO'"]

[Text] Marshal Akhromeyev, former Soviet chief of general staff and military adviser to Mr. Gorbachev, has sent us the following clarification through APN:

"Some people in the West say that a reunified Germany should remain in NATO. I think that it should not form part of any military bloc, be it NATO or the Warsaw Pact. The Soviet Union is opposed to a future reunified Germany being a NATO member, because the USSR obviously cannot want the military alliance of states which have hitherto regarded it as their possible enemy to be strengthened. We must therefore find a solution."

"We have various options."

"A reunified Germany could become a neutral state. Moreover, the USSR proposed that situation immediately after World War II. From 1945 to 1959 Moscow firmly advocated a unified, democratic, and neutral Germany. There is also another solution. A reunified Germany could be part of an entirely different organization which is not an enemy for the USSR on the one hand, or for the United States, Britain, and France on the other. In short, it would be an organization not opposed to any other European country. I think we should seek such a solution. The two-plus-four conference will clearly have to deal with this."

"The promise by the FRG (or even by the United States and other countries) not to deploy their troops in the GDR if the two Germanys unite clearly cannot satisfy us. First, because it is only a promise! Second, even if such a statement were made by the whole of NATO, it would not provide us with the vital guarantees. We must not forget the experience of history. After the signing of the Versailles Treaty, the Rhineland was demilitarized (between the Franco-Belgian border and the Rhine). Nonetheless, in 1936 Hitler's Germany violated the pledges given and occupied the area concerned. Everyone is aware of the results of those events.... That is why I do not think a mere promise from the FRG can be seriously regarded as a guarantee for the USSR's security."

"In addition, we must not forget that U.S. tactical nuclear weapons are deployed on West German territory and that they will not automatically disappear from West European territory if the two Germanys unite. We must therefore also find a solution to this problem. Even if we accept from the outset that the GDR should be demilitarized, the territory of the current FRG would be bursting with this kind of weapon. Such a prospect is absolutely unacceptable to us."

"If we consider the existence of NATO and the Warsaw Pact and the security of states, we could make a bilateral reduction in armed forces and armaments, and in military budgets. Only then could we talk of equal security for the two sides or alliances. We could also ensure that strong security is obtained by the reduction of the two military alliances' military functions. But the NATO states still do not accept such measures."

Need for New Attitude to Business Highlighted

PM2703103790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 90 First Edition p 6

[Own correspondent Ye. Grigoryev dispatch: "'What We Should Be Thinking About.' At the Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe"]

[Text] Bonn, 26 Mar—The number of participants in the conference on economic cooperation in Europe, which is being held here, has already more than doubled. Some 1,600 of them have now been registered.

The conference is being "swelled" by the arrival of business circles' representatives. The U.S. delegation—at present the only one that consists just of diplomats and employees of other administration components—is also expected soon to acquire a group of business people. Everywhere great significance is attached to the conference as an instrument of all-European economic cooperation.

The work here has now gone into specialized groups. The final document is now being prepared within the framework of numerous and diverse contacts. The political debate in the plenary sessions, which was opened by Chancellor H. Kohl, was of great significance for the favorable atmosphere and the businesslike thrust of the conference. He proposed, in particular, proceeding to the organizational strengthening of the Helsinki process. Italy advocated allocating a certain percentage of EEC output to purposes of all-European economic cooperation. The Americans submitted a whole "catalogue of Bonn principles of economic cooperation." A draft final document indicating numerous spheres of such collaboration was submitted on behalf of the EC. In this way a kind of bank of ideas emerged, which is what is now being discussed.

One of the remarkable aspects, E.Ye. Obminskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister and leader of the Soviet delegation, told me, is the evident common understanding that the switch from a centralized administrative system to a market economy is necessary both for the internal restructuring of the economy and the attainment of its greater efficiency and for integration in the world economy, including its all-European framework. In our view the chancellor's speech contained positive aspects, my interlocutor continued. He said, inter alia, that the process of German unification must keep to the channel of all-European processes and that such rapprochement between the different parts of Europe would also considerably facilitate the building of a united Germany.

The all-European economic process is undoubtedly decisive in many ways for further development on the continent. The preconditions for such cooperation which have been created in recent years must finally begin to operate in full.

What should we be thinking about in connection with the conference's work? We have frequently been made to feel there, E.Ye. Obminskiy continued, that, despite all the respect for our our actions and intentions, USSR attitudes to business people and conditions for cooperation are still far from the standards to which the Western entrepreneur is accustomed. There is a long-urgent need to adopt a law on foreign enterprise in the USSR. Otherwise a chaotic situation will arise which will suit no businessman. Our tardiness in going over to new forms of work and in realizing the economic reform also tells. The conference is prompting us to return to the question of how far we follow in our domestic practice our own theses regarding the development of the European process. This is all the more necessary, the leader of the Soviet delegation pointed out in conclusion, because we are registering at this conference a growing European interest in cooperation with our country.

The conference on economic cooperation in Europe is continuing.

Ministry Reminds Journalists of Restrictions

LD2903143290 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Some Moscow-based foreign reporters were chided by a Foreign Ministry spokesman today for breaking regulations on their travel in the Soviet Union.

Speaking at a briefing, spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh listed U.S. WASHINGTON POST and Italian REPUBBLICA correspondents among uncooperative members of the press who "have gone to the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius without first securing Soviet authorities' permission for such a trip."

He also said that "while in Lithuania, some foreign journalists extended their stay there, either on their own or citing the 'consent' of Lithuanian authorities."

He reminded reporters of a Foreign Ministry announcement at a similar briefing last Monday that "foreign reporters accredited in Moscow are instructed to leave Lithuanian territory at the end of their authorised stay and to refrain from trips to the republic."

"I would like to explain in no uncertain terms," Gremitskikh continued, "that activities in violation of laws and rules in effect in the USSR with regard to foreign nationals, will provoke a corresponding reaction on our part."

He reminded reporters that they "are accredited at the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow rather than at any other institution" and that the ministry's "recommendations and instructions" for them are "binding."

The spokesman emphasised that the ministry would like to keep its relations with the foreign press corps in Moscow "collegiate and businesslike", and urged reporters "not to provoke any unwarranted confrontation."

Petrovskiy Meets DPRK, U.S. Charges d'Affaires

PM2903180690 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 90 Moscow Evening Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Information"]

[Text] During 21-23 March, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy received Kim Hui-su, DPRK charge d'affaires in the USSR.

A conversation took place between V.F. Petrovskiy and J. Joyce, U.S. charge d'affaires in the USSR, in which the progress of the discussion of human rights problems in the organs of the UN system was examined.

V.F. Petrovskiy also met K. Gastayger [name as transliterated], director of the Geneva Institute of International Relations.

Asian Security Problems Viewed

PM3003090390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 90 Second Edition p 5

[Article by political observer Vsevolod Ovchinnikov: "In Search of Common Denominator"]

[Text] By 1 April, at the demand of Congress, the administration must submit a report on U.S. military policy in the Far East. In connection with this document's preparation the defense secretary has made a trip to Hawaii, South Korea, the Philippines, and Japan.

In examining the problem it seems to me the question inevitably arises: Is it possible to extend to the Asian and Pacific region the experience of reaching mutually accepted accords accumulated in Europe and at the Soviet-U.S. disarmament talks?

As is well known, the USSR has given a positive reply to this. Moscow's call to engage in a collective study of problems of security, trust, and cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region and to seek a common denominator for the diverse interests and positions comprises the thrust of the Soviet initiatives put forward in Vladivostok in 1986 and in Krasnoyarsk in 1988. Considering the experience of the all-European process to be positive, the USSR is in no way imposing a formula for all-Asian security on other states but is urging the countries of Asia and the Pacific Ocean to take part together in elaborating it.

Different views so far dominate in Washington's official circles. Their supporters claim that approaches toward confidence-building and security born in Europe are inapplicable in Asia; that "the Soviet military threat" in the Asian and Pacific region has not been reduced and before beginning something like the all-European process there it is allegedly essential to full regulate regional conflicts and vexed problems. In my view Washington is avoiding dialogue with Moscow on Pacific security for two reasons. First, the United States' present dominant positions in the region suit it. Second, the Pentagon's tactic in the disarmament field is making itself felt—seeking parity with the USSR on land while maintaining U.S. superiority at sea.

I allow myself to quote two recent statements by the U.S. defense secretary on this subject.

"We have been hearing people say recently that we must sit down at the conference table to talk about naval weapons since the USSR has displayed the readiness to reduce conventional forces in Europe. The European example cannot be compared with the diversity of the situations which we observe in the Asian and Pacific region. From our viewpoint Asia is primarily a naval theater of military operations lacking allied structures which fully cover each other. The United States is a kind of balancing element in the region. That is why the USSR's attempts to restrict free movement for fleets do not accord with the interests of peace and stability. And that is why we shall continue to resist naval arms control." "The United States is a global power with global interests and global commitments.... Sometimes these interests will inevitably require that we use U.S. military might. Panama serves as a good example."

The example cited by Cheney is indeed eloquent. Since the first years after the war the Asian and Pacific region has become for the United States an arena for the policy which in the 19th century was called "gunboat diplomacy" but which it would now be more accurate to call "aircraft carrier diplomacy." It is not only that, according to U.S. figures, there are six aircraft carriers, two battleships (the USSR Pacific fleet has no ships of these classes at all) and also 18 cruisers, 29 destroyers, 46 frigates and over 50 submarines deployed here. The Asian and Pacific region serves as a graphic embodiment of the "strategy of forward basing." The first forward line is the garrisons in Alaska (21,000 men) and Hawaii (46,000). The second is the bases in Japan (52,000 men), South Korea (43,000), and the Philippines (18,000).

If to the overall numerical strength of the U.S. grouping in the Pacific zone we add the Japanese "self defense forces," the result is that the United States and Japan have an over twofold superiority there over the USSR in terms of the numerical strength of their personnel, a nearly fourfold advantage in terms of the number of large surface ships, and a more than twofold advantage in terms of the number of tactical and naval strike aircraft.

The Soviet military potential in the Far East consists of two historically formed groupings. The first of them, numbering 326,000 men, opposes the armed forces of the United States and Japan in the Pacific zone, Alaska, and the Western U.S. seaboard. It includes 870 combat aircraft, about 4,500 tanks, 55 large surface ships, including two carrying aircraft, 48 nuclear submarines, not counting those equipped with strategic missiles.

The Soviet troops' second grouping numbering 271,000 men was created to cover the Eastern sector of the land border. It is situated in the Transbaykal military district, on the territory of Mongolia, and also in the section of the Far East Military District which borders on China. It included 820 combat aircraft and over 8,000 tanks. I cite these figures in the past tense because perestroyka in Soviet military policy on the basis of defense sufficiency is under way on both the Western and Eastern salients.

It will soon be a year since the Soviet-Chinese summit meeting in Beijing. It normalized relations between neighbors—two very large world states—and eliminated a dangerous hotbed of tension in the region. It became possible drastically to reduce the garrisons along the Soviet-Chinese border and in the long term to turn the border into a completely demilitarized zone of peace and cooperation 7,500 km long. In bringing matters to the normalization of relations Moscow and Beijing undertook countersteps to reduce the level of military confrontation. China reduced the numerical strength of its armed forces by 1 million. The Soviet Union's decision unilaterally to reduce its armed forces by 0.5 million affects 200,000 servicemen in the Asian part of the country, 120,000 of them in the Far East. Ground forces there are being reduced by 12 divisions, 11 air regiments are being disbanded, and 16 warships are being removed from the Pacific Fleet. The remaining troops will at given an unambiguously defensive orientation.

The May meeting in Beijing coincided with the second, main stage of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Mongolia. By the end of this year three-fourths of the ground forces and an entire air force grouping, that is one motorized unit, two armored units, two air force divisions, and individual units with a total numerical strength of over 50,000 will return home. Moscow and Ulaan Baatar recently signed an agreement to completely end the Soviet military presence on Mongolian soil.

For those who like to fuel passions over "Soviet expansion" in the Asian and Pacific region the Soviet military presence in Vietnam's Cam Ranh bay has become truly a cause celebre since the late seventies. It is important to stress that the Pacific fleet does not have a military base there but a material and technical supply point where it is possible to refuel, to replenish stocks of food and fresh water, to allow the personnel to rest, and to carry out minor repairs. As is well known, the USSR has expressed its readiness to abandon its establishments in Cam Ranh if the United States abolishes its bases in the Philippines. This initiative failed to meet with a positive response.

And at the end of last year the USSR began to reduce its military presence unilaterally. Mig-23 and TU-16 aircraft were withdrawn from Cam Ranh. This year all that is left is an air detachment with a temporary allocation of 6-10 aircraft.

The nuclear component of the Soviet military potential in the Asian and Pacific region is also declining. Under the Washington treaty 436 intermediate- and shorter-range missiles are being destroyed in the Asian part of the USSR. Since 1984 the Soviet Union has unilaterally ceased to build up its ground-based nuclear forces East of the Urals and since 1986 has not increased the number of carrier aircraft there.

When, four years ago, the Soviet Union called for a joint question for ways to strengthen peace, security, and cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region it suggested a comprehensive program of actions on five salients. I shall recall these guidelines put forward in Vladivostok: regulating regional conflicts; barring the proliferation of nuclear weapons; restricting the activeness of fleets and military presence in the Pacific and Indian Ocean basins; radically reducing armed forces and conventional arms in Asia; embarking on the practical discussion of confidence-building measures.

All these tasks retain their topicality to this day. And positive advances have appeared on the first and second of these salients. The Soviet Union fulfilled the Geneva accords on Afghanistan right on schedule. For over a year now there has not been a single Soviet soldier there. The Vietnamese troops left Cambodia six months ago. The search is continuing for a political settlement in these countries on the basis of national conciliation. Advances toward the reduction of tension on the Korean peninsula have also emerged.

The Soviet Union, like the PRC, immediately acceded to the Rarotonga treaty which proclaimed the southern part of the Pacific a nuclear-free zone. Moscow has a positive attitude toward the idea advocated by the ASEAN members: turning Southeast asia into a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality and proclaiming it a nuclear-free zone. I am sure that if this decision is taken the USSR will fulfill the commitments stemming from it.

The future of the Asian and Pacific region depends on the abilities of the states here to seek and find the optimum balance of their interests and when necessary to subordinate their interests to general human interests. Moscow does not divide its foreign policy into an Atlantic policy and a Pacific policy. Taking up the post of the first president of the USSR 15 March, M.S. Gorbachev said in his speech that on the Asian and Pacific salient there must be a consistent implementation of the Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk initiatives and they must be translated to the plan of specific, businesslike relations. He voiced the opinion that the processes of building peace-loving communities in Europe and Asia should ultimately end with a single system of security throughout the expanse of Europe and Asia.

United States & Canada

Kennedy Delivers Address on Soviet Television

LD2903150590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1743 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Address by Senator Edward Kennedy on Soviet Television," in English with superimposed Russian translation—live or recorded; translated from the Russian; video shows Kennedy seated at a desk and reading from prepared text]

[Text] I have already been in your country. Today I returned here in a period of transformations and changes which are as voluminous and extensive as the Soviet Union itself. Events which it was difficult to think of before have become a daily occurrence. In South Africa Nelson Mandela has been released; in Chile Pinochet is retiring; the Berlin Wall is being demolished; and the East European countries are taking their place in the ranks of free nations.

Let the historians dispute the details and the fortuities, assess the forces which have led us to this radical turning point in history, but everyone knows that there is one person who dared to view things differently and to lead a great country into a new era, to throw down a challenge to peril in order not to miss the opportunities which have opened up. Most of, even the most powerful leaders, hold their posts for many years and then they leave, leaving everything essentially unchanged. Mikhail Gorbachev is reshaping the future not only of this country but of all countries. Your president's conduct and decisons will influence the fate of the entire planet. I had the honor of meeting with him yesterday.

I know his devotion to raising the living standard of all people in the Soviet Union. I know that there are difficulities in the Soviet Union, and that the changes have not yet yielded a plentiful economic harvest. But let's take into account what has already been achieved: the old mistakes which have already been corrected and the new hopes for a bright future; the burden of past mistakes has been lifted; historic truth has been restored; as never before a spirit of freedom has awakened in your people. The gulag has disappeared; the elections have become genuine; and everyone else views you with admiration.

But, to speak honestly, there are also certain misgivings. It is very important that the problem of Lithuania be resolved peacefully, and this is paramount for all other aims of ours. Precisely for this reason I was very glad to hear from President Gorbachev that force will not be used so long as there is no threat to people's lives, and that he is devoted to achieving a peaceful settlement of the problem. We all hope that the new Soviet democracy will be successful, and we are ready to make our contribution to it. But we also know that no outside group, no other group, however much we want this, will be able to build your economy for you. We can help; we can and we will strengthen our trade and commercial ties, but in the final analysis only the Soviet people will be able to do that.

The Americans also have gone through similar trying times. At the depth of the Great Depression, when a third of our workers were out of work, Franklin Roosevelt appealed to my country to strengthen their trust: the only thing we have to fear is fear itself, he said. The U.S. economy did not recover overnight. Despite all the successes of the reform people had to wait for prosperity for seven more years. But our people stayed the course, because it was able to see the new America at the end of the road. People looked to the future with hope. That was hard to do, standing in the bread lines of the times of the depression of the thirties in the United States. It is equally hard to do now, in the nineties in the Soviet Union, standing in line for food near the doors of stores.

But the advantages of freedom come only when this freedom has been paid for. A cumbersome, inefficient state economy can at best lead to mediocre results and give rise to a long, slow, steady decline. The transition to individual initiative, creativity and enterprise will inevitably involve some negative features. The path to prosperity inevitably has to pass through this difficult area. This requires unity of purpose. This depends on the preparedness of everyone for losses. This grants everyone an identical opportunity to work, to invest, and to reap the rewards. That, as President Kennedy said on the day of his inauguration, is the essence of democracy. Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.

There is another fundamental truth in democracy, which sometimes is capable also of disappointing: this is the need to maintain the balance of power in the leadership. Progress does not emanate from one person but from achieving concord. Sometimes this can take time, sometimes it arouses impatience. In a truly democratic state the institutions of power are formed in such a way as to prevent dictatorship. In democracy one institution cannot be given a monopoly to power. Even at the most difficult times the balance of power is critically important in order to ensure people's freedom and well-being. A free society cannot do without convictions, debates, and proofs in the matter of the formation of a consensus. Only a few weeks ago President Grobachev spoke of a carefully thought-out system of division of powers which is to be enshrined in the new Soviet constitution, which will prevent all power being concentrated in the hands of one person. In democratic countries the laws are used wisely as a restraining factor which makes it possible for us to be free. In your country the principle of the division of powers can become a major achievement of these years and perestroyka's best legacy to future generations.

Finally, I would like to dwell on the relations between our two countries, which quite recently were divided by mutual distrust but which also have a long history of cooperation from the times of the great American revolution until the Soviet-U.S. alliance in World War II. We are the only two major powers which have never openly waged war against each other, even though we have approached the point of danger. Let's make a mark once more by creating and strengthening a stable peace.

Let us finish work in the sphere of arms control, and let us channel these efforts into preventing a nuclear war and not in preparing for it. Let us analyze anew the problems which still divide us: from Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, to the countries of the Third World and the Near East. As we eradicate previous conflicts let's resolve a few acute disputes which have caused tension between East and West, and which, because of this tension, have reached a deadlock. Allow me to note in the spirit of glasnost that at the time when the United States was the first country to have officially recognized the State of Israel, the Soviet Union became the second country to do so only a few minutes later.

Your country's president has opened a new era in the history of the world which is worried by the problems of overcoming starvation, poverty, and prejudice, which are as old as the world. Today for the first time we are granted the opportunity to devote all our efforts to healing this world and not to fighting one another.

In conclusion, allow me to say how important this present visit is for me personally. My brother, President John Kennedy, planned to visit the USSR possibly in the summer of 1964. He believed, despite the spite and the seemingly insuperable differences between us, the immense abyss which divided us, that one day the long struggle in the twilight would end, and the dawn of freedom would begin just as inevitably as the sun rises in the east. He called on his people for patience and imagination. He said that there were no magic policies. There is only hard work which can and must be done.

He never managed to visit Moscow. But I think, I know what he would say in this new time, which today is yielding the fruits of this work. He would repeat what he had said already once only a few months after the Caribbean crisis. Our problems have been created by man, so they can be resolved by man. Man can be as great as he wants. There is no problem of human existence not subject to people. Human reason and spirit have more than once tackled outwardly insoluble problems, and I believe that this will be repeated again. From Harry Truman to Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush, even during the blackest days of our history, America has always sought to avoid the war which would become the last for mankind. We have hoped for the peaceful victory of freedom. No one knew when this would happen and how. We simply had to believe this, to strive for this and not to betray our conviction because we had no other choice. Today the Soviet Union has chosen its path and time. In a brief, amazing interval of five years it has forced the entire world to believe that our best human aspirations can overcome the fear of the destruction of mankind.

We salute Mikhail Gorbachev for his foresight and courage. We salute the Soviet people for their patience and indomitable strength and spirit. From Szczecin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic the Iron Curtain has fallen. Freedom is marching across the world. Its path is not always easy, but it is one of the remarkable journeys ever witnessed by the world. In that journey let our two great countries, which previously confronted each other, set off together, confident of our common values, strong because of our difference, always following the lodestar of freedom and justice for all. Thank you.

U.S. Navy Strength Cited, Purpose Criticized

PM2903110190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 90 First Edition p 3

[Article by Colonel G. Vasilyev: "Clenched Fist. United States Striving To Maintain Naval Superiority"]

[Text] The main feature of the present period, which is defining the future of world development, is the conclusion of the transition from the "cold war" and confrontation to a real reduction in the level of military confrontation and the strengthening of security and cooperation.

Guided by new political thinking, the Soviet Union has elaborated and is implementing a fundamentally new, defensive military doctrine aimed at preventing war and ensuring universal and equal security for all states. In the interests of the practical implementation of its defensive doctrine, the Soviet side has decided to unilaterally cut its armed forces and is implementing these reductions. The accords on limiting the arms race already achieved and really possible in the very near future will lead to a quantitative reduction in the numbers of Soviet and U.S. weapons systems and military hardware.

At the same time, the main programs for the qualitative improvement of the armed forces mapped out by the U.S. side in the previous period are being retained. The United States is implementing and planning in the future to develop [sozdaniye] fundamentally new weapons systems whose destructive capability would be comparable with mass destruction systems. It is also typical that the efforts of the United States and its allies are aimed at avoiding talks and ruling out the establishment of effective verification of those armed forces components and armaments in which the NATO countries have a clear advantage.

This applies above all to naval forces. The Navy is one of the main elements in the U.S. "position-of-strength" policy. It controls all the oceans and many seas—which creates an atmosphere of tension and threatens international security. However, as is clear from official statements, the United States intends neither to cut its Navy nor to restrict its activities. Thus, Defense Secretary R. Cheney, speaking at the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated: "We have always endeavored—and, I think, we will continue to endeavor—to emphasize the importance of superiority at sea and control of the oceans."

It is claimed as an argument that the United States is a major naval power. It is claimed that the U.S. Navy carries out exclusively defensive tasks in defending merchant shipping and sea lanes and that its activities present no danger to other countries and are not aimed at interfering in foreign states' affairs. Let's look at the facts, however.

U.S. naval forces far exceed the limits needed for defense, and are considerably larger than the Soviet Navy. Their manpower (taking reserves into account) numbers more than 970,000 men, four Marine expeditionary divisions of 50,000 servicemen each, more than 460 warships—including 16 attack aircraft carriers and around 100 auxiliaries—and up to 6,000 airplanes and helicopters. The U.S. Navy is dominated by strike offensive means—nuclear submarines, various classes of capital ships, including battleships and cruisers with high-accuracy, long-range cruise missiles (SLCM), numerous strike aircraft, and powerful amphibious forces designed for rapid strategic deployment by air or sea in any part of the world.

U.S. naval forces are based around carrier battle groups—operational naval force formations comprising up to 10-12 warships each, including one carrier. Carriers (with complements of up to 6,000 men) are platforms for up to 100 aircraft, including more than 40 nuclear delivery vehicles with a range of more than 1,000 km. In all, six of the U.S. Navy's 16 carriers are nuclear-powered. Moreover, there are another four mothballed carriers. Even in peacetime carrier battle groups are continuously in direct proximity to the state borders of the Soviet Union and other countries.

As has been reported in the U.S. press, as of 1990 the number of carrier groups will be officially reduced from 16 to 15 by decommissioning the carrier "Coral Sea" (built in 1947). It is planned to replace other obsolete carriers in the future. However, if necessary, the decommissioned vessels could be quickly reactivated, as happened with four World War II-vintage battleships which have now been demothballed and are part of the regular naval force composition. Quite recently the U.S. Navy was supplemented by a new nuclear aircraft carrier—the "Abraham Lincoln"—and yet another vessel of the same type, the "George Washington" is expected to be commissioned in 1992. The Nimitz-class multirole carriers "John C. Stennis" and "United States" are under construction. And it must be remembered that U.S. allies—Britain, France, Spain, and Italy—also have carrier groups (seven aircraft carriers).

With a view to maintaining its naval superiority over the Soviet Union, the United States is pushing ahead with a program for the construction of other warships as well. Twenty Los Angeles-class nuclear submarines, 12 cruisers equipped with Tomahawk SLCM's, the Ticonderoga series, and a number of other vessels are currently under construction. The program presented to Congress for naval force development in 1990-1994 requests funding for the construction of more than 90 vessels, including 11 new-generation SS-21 Seawolf-class multirole nuclear submarines and more than 20 Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers, each equipped with 91 long-range cruise missiles as well as modern surface-to-air missiles and ASW guided missiles. Even laymen can see that this entire U.S. naval strike "arsenal" has by no means a defensive role.

Another important component of naval strike power—aircraft—is also being improved. It is planned to further build up its combat capabilities through the qualitative renewal of the aircraft fleet with F/A-18 Hornet ground-attack fighters and F-14 fighters. The fundamentally new A-12 ground-attack aircraft and the NATF fighter, which are to enter service in the nineties, are under development [razrabatyvayutsya]. These stealth-technology aircraft will be equipped with high-accuracy air-to-air and air-to-surface guided missiles.

But the main focus in U.S. Navy equipment is on the introduction of high-accuracy, long-range Tomahawk SLCM's (with a range of up to 2,600 km in nuclear configuration and 1,500 km in conventional configuration) into service with battleships, cruisers, destroyers, and multirole nuclear submarines. In terms of their combat capability these cruise missiles represent a substantial addition to existing strategic offensive weapons systems. Currently a single missile attack group of vessels armed with "Tomahawk" SLCM's is capable of inflicting a strike powerful enough to destroy more than 600 Hiroshimas. There are already four such groups in the U.S. Navy, and it is planned to significantly increase their number.

As is clear from foreign press reports, in the nineties the United States plans to have around 200 nuclear submarines and surface vessels armed with around 4,000 Tomahawk SLCM's (of which 756 would be nuclear-tipped).

Even in peacetime U.S. naval forces are deployed permanently, far from their territory, in all the main ocean areas.

In the North Atlantic and northern European waters there are continuously up to 20 surface vessels and submarines of the U.S. 2d Fleet tasked with operating against the Soviet Northern Fleet. In the Iberian sector of the Atlantic (in the region of Madeira) there is a squadron of store-ships with many days' supply of weapons, military hardware, and materiel for one Marine expeditionary brigade. The U.S. 6th Fleet of more than 30 vessels operates in the Mediterranean. Around 40 warships of various classes—including two or three aircraft carriers and store-ships with weapons for a Marines brigade—are deployed in the western Pacific adjoining the USSR's Far Eastern borders.

All these U.S. naval groupings function in accordance with the so-called "forward naval strategy." Its essence in peacetime is to establish dominance in all regions of "vital importance" to the United States—the North Atlantic, the Norwegian Sea, the Mediterranean, and parts of the Pacific and Indian Oceans; in wartime its role is to beat the enemy to the punch, disrupt its naval deployment, and conduct offensive operations against Soviet fleets.

The targeted directives of this strategy are regularly rehearsed in U.S. naval exercises near Soviet territorial waters. These include exercises such as "Pacex '89" or "Team Spirit '90." The number, size, and composition of the participants in these dangerous maneuvers are growing.

Those are the realities. It is obvious that you cannot extend one open hand while clenching the other tight.

U.S. Group Visits Central Electoral Commission

LD2603151390 Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—A delegation of the U.S. Federal Election Commission led by Lee Elliott, which is staying here on a visit, met Vladimir Orlov, chairman of the Central Commission for the Election of USSR People's Deputies. They discussed the Soviet political system and possible improvement of the Soviet electoral laws.

Orlov told the American delegation about the Soviet electoral system, pointing out that the present electoral legislation makes it possible to hold democratic elections. At the same time, he continued, the gaps existing in the legislation call for further upgrading, especially in view of the emergence of new political parties.

He pointed to the need to provide for effective guarantees that the bodies of power would be representative and include the young, women, the aged, as well as various nationalities. Orlov spoke in favor of expanding contacts with foreign colleagues, which allows various parties to exchange experience gained in this sphere.

Alaskan Business Delegation Visits Chukchi

LD2603124490 Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—By TASS special correspondent Georgiy Meyzerov:

About 50 businessmen from Alaska, USA, arrived today in the Chukchi region, the Soviet Far East, to establish contacts with Soviet partners. The visit was organised by the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic council and the Alaskan Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to the Chukchi region, the delegation will tour Magadan, Khabarovsk and Irkutsk.

This is the first such U.S. delegation to visit the area. It includes heads of mining, oil, gas, TV communication, transportation, fishing, tourist and trade companies, as well as Alaskan financial and legal authorities.

Chukchi regional official Aleksandr Volkov said that the Soviet side is interested in the joint development of natural resources, including oil and coal, the construction of fish- and meat-processing ventures, the equipment of reindeer-breeding ventures, the equipment of reindeer-breeding and fishing farms with powerful freezers and the development of tourism.

The projects may be fulfilled on various bases: from joint ventures to concessions.

However, there are many problems in the Chukchi region that hamper the development of economic relations with Americans. The major obstacle is the severe and changeable climate. Thus, it will be useful for the Chukchi region to adopt the Alaskan experience of transport, production, trade and servicing.

China

CPC Leader Li Peng Comments on Current Issues

PM3003101790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian Second Edition 30 Mar 90 p 4

[TASS report: "Prior to Visit to USSR"]

[Text] In the near future I am to make an official visit to the Soviet Union. I think that the purpose of the visit should be the achievement of definite successes in the further development of relations between the PRC and the USSR, following their normalization. This applies to all fields of these relations—politics, economics, culture, and science and technology—as well as to issues connected with lowering the level of military confrontation in the areas of our common border. This was stated by Li Peng, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Politburo and premier of the PRC State Council, in a conversation with a delegation of Soviet journalists who are in China at the invitation of the All-China Journalists' Association.

Speaking specifically, Li Peng went on to say, we would like, first and foremost, during the visit to hold talks on the expansion and development of Sino-Soviet economic cooperation. There are fine opportunities and prospects for attaining this goal, since the economies of our states are mutually complementary in character: what you are short of exists in our country, and what we lack exists in your country. Naturally we also intend to hold an extensive exchange of views on international problems of mutual interest. In this respect it is not necessary to set the goal of achieving identical approaches. It is important to exchange views and opinions in order to understand better and more fully each other's positions and viewpoints.

Last May, M.S. Gorbachev came to China on an exceptionally important visit, Li Peng noted. The significance of that visit can be summed up in eight Chinese characters, which mean, "Close the past, open up the future". The normalization of Sino-Soviet relations was realized during the visit; and, viewing them as a whole, it should be noted that these relations are developing in a good direction. However, the head of the Chinese Government said, our relations could advance even more quickly. Bearing in mind that numerous events have occurred recently, both in European countries and in the Soviet Union, it is possible that it is hard for you to give Sino-Soviet relations the attention that they deserve.

Both China and the Soviet Union are conducting socialist reforms, and we have always stressed that proceeding along the path of socialism means conducting a quest. Marx and Engels created the doctrine of socialism and communism at the conceptual level, and Lenin developed that doctrine as it applied to the specific conditions of your country. To proceed along the path of socialism, it is necessary to combine general theory with the specific character of the country. There is no complete model in the development of socialism. The Soviet Union has its practice, and China has its own, too, but this should not impede the maintenance of normal relations between our two countries and parties.

I have acquainted myself with the documents adopted at the latest plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and the decisions of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies, Li Peng continued. I have formed the impression that your country has not renounced the ideals of socialism, and we could exchange views on how to move forward along the socialist path. But even if the people of your country were to express a view to the effect that socialism is no longer the ideal for the Soviet Union, we would still proceed on the basis that we ought to maintain normal interstate relations with your country. However, I do not see any signs that the Soviet people do not want to proceed along the path of socialism.

Replying to a question about the prospects for the development of the PRC, which recently celebrated its 40th birthday, Li Peng stressed that during the past four decades, from being a semi-colonial, semi-feudal country, China had turned into a socialist state that had achieved initial successes along the road to prosperity and strength. [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian at 1235 GMT on 29 March in its version of this item adds the following: "He noted that a solid industrial base has been created in the PRC. China annually produces 60 million tonnes of steel and rolled iron, mines over 1 billion tonnes of coal, and generates over 580 billion kilowatt hours of electric power."] The last decade was marked by notable successes. In the course of this decade, the country began implementing reforms and the open policy. The Third Plenum of the CPC Central Committee, which took place in 1978, was a turning point in this process: it finally rectified the mistakes that had been made during the "Cultural Revolution", and laid the foundations for the reforms and the open policy, aimed at eliminating the excessively centralized and too-rigid management of economic construction, and thus giving scope for the development of activities in the localities, and at industrial enterprises, and creating conditions and opportunities for the display of initiative by workers and peasants.

[TASS International here adds: "As is known, the reforms in China started with the reforms in the economy, and, in the economy, with agriculture. Previously collective farms, which, evidently, are similar to Soviet collective farms, took up the main place in our agriculture. Having started the reform, we set out on a course toward introducing a system of household contracting taking into account the final results of each peasant's work. Under this system the land, which is public property, is assigned to households. China produced 150 million tonnes of grain in 1949; this figure has now reached 400 million.

"The results of the reform that we have been carrying out for the last 10 years can be summarized in a few sentences. We are planning to increase national income and GNP fourfold by the end of the century. And the first step, the doubling of national income, was already accomplished by the end of 1988. By this year we managed to increase national income 220 percent. The all-around strength of our state, that is to say in the economy, science, technology, and other areas, has significantly increased. The population's standard of living has increased. It used to be said in China that many people wanted to acquire 'three main things', namely, a watch, a bicycle, and a sewing machine. But now the list of the 'three main items' that are an everyday part of people's lives—not just in the towns but also in the villages—is quite different, namely a television, a refrigerator, and a washing machine. There are now roughly 700 million television viewers in China, for instance."]

Of course, in the 40-year period of building socialism, we have accumulated not only good experience, but negative experiences too, the premier went on. We have had both failures and shortcomings, but by comparison with the successes that the country has achieved, these are of secondary importance.

[TASS International here adds: "Beginning in 1985, an excessively fast rate of growth in the economy was observed, as a result of which there appeared a disproportion between accumulation and consumption, and serious inflationary processes made themselves felt. For this very reason we set about implementing measures to improve the economic environment and introduce order in the national economy. Our other shortcoming concerns ideological and political work. The main goal of the policy of opening to the world pursued by China is to study the advanced experiences of developed countries and assimilate advanced equipment and technology. Of course, we are not against imitating all the good things in the field of culture in other countries as well. However, as the reforms and the open policy were pursued, it became clear that elements of decadence were also penetrating into our country alongside the positive side. Also, the development of the commodity economy encourages a lowering in people's aspirations toward ideals, and the level of morality falls."]

In June last year, Li Peng continued, disorders and a revolt took place in the PRC, which occurred under the influence both of international and of domestic factors. As for the international factors, it must be said, in this connection, that the hostile forces of the West have never renounced attempts to accomplish "peaceful evolution" in our country. As far as domestic factors are concerned, they include primarily the weakening of ideological and political work and education work among the population, and the failure to take measures that would enable the influence of negative elements and tendencies to be opposed. These same factors include corruption, bribery, dissipation, and abuse of office, as well as injustice in the field of distribution. The events of 4 June last year were followed by three plenums of the CPC Central Committee. Li Peng noted that these plenums placed particular emphasis on intensifying ideological and political work, improving the economy, and bringing about proper order in the economic field.

China and the Soviet Union are neighboring states. Between them stretches a border with a total length of over 7,000 km, the premier of the PRC State Council stressed, and we wish to develop friendly, good-neighbor relations with the USSR, since such relations are of very great importance to the preservation of peace and to development both in the Far East and throughout the world. The peoples of our two countries must live in peace and friendship. I should like to take advantage of this occasion to convey to the Soviet people the friendly feelings of the Chinese people.

Jiang Zemin Cited on Control of Mass Media

PM2303094590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 90 Moscow Edition p 3

[Own correspondent Yu. Savenkov dispatch: "China: Control Over the Press Increasing"]

[Text] Beijing—"Newspapers, radio, and television in China are the mouthpiece of the party, the government, and the people," Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has declared. He made this remark in a speech at a national symposium to discuss the work of the mass media at the end of last year.

A detailed account of that speech was carried in all newspapers only a few days ago. The party's leading role in the mass media must be strengthened, the general secretary believes. The party is obliged to show concern for the political orientation of information and to control the mass media, particularly their leaders, who must be true Marxists.

Developing his idea, Jiang Zemin emphasized: Loyalty to the party spirit is manifested in the identity between the political mass media and the party Central Committee. Calling for a tough and consistent struggle against "bourgeois liberalization," which has spread in recent years, he pointed out that newspapers, journals, radio, and television will never again be permitted to propagandize bourgeois ideas. He also called for the publication of profound materials analyzing the erroneous ideas expressed by certain authors recently. Only by analyzing these erroneous ideas is it possible to achieve like-mindedness and stability. Coming out against "transparency" (what is understood by this term in China is absolute glasnost), Jiang Zemin pointed out that there cannot be "transparency" in everything: There are, for example, state secrets and military, diplomatic, political, economic, scientific, and technical secrets which cannot be made public. There cannot be absolute press freedom, he declared.

Newspapers also carry the full text of the report which Li Ruihuan, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo Standing Committee, read out at the same symposium, in which he places chief emphasis on the positive nature of propaganda. He emphasizes the urgency of "glorifying the people's heroic achievements" and controlling public opinion by shaping it in a favorable direction.

XINHUA reported recently that approximately 400 publishers in China are to lose their licenses. Many of them for publishing articles contradicting the CPC line. Incidentally, the Shanghai authorities have drawn up a clear-cut classification of "harmful publications": reactionary, pornographic, obscene, and those that propagandize violence or feudal survivals.

The country has 1,600 newspapers, 3,000 periodicals in the social sciences sphere, and 500 publishing houses. As a result of the measures taken, the total number of periodicals and publishing houses will be reduced by nine percent. In particular, two publishing houses (in Beijing and on Hainan island) have been closed for disseminating pornographic books. Pornography is one of the "seven vices" which a mass campaign is now being mounted to eradicate in China.

At a recent working conference of leaders of provincial administrations for press and publishing house affairs Song Muwen, head of that department, campaigned for a ban on publications which harm the country's social and economic stability and demanded an end to the verification of the "political reliability" of all publications no later than the end of March. Song Muwen said that a draft national plan of publications of "key books" is being prepared for the upcoming 5-year period. The department is preparing a series of draft laws in the sphere of publishing, including a law on copyright. A program of dynamic instruction of chief editors and directors of newspapers, journals, and publishing houses—in short, those who are responsible for a publication—will be implemented starting this year. The purpose is to raise the standard of professional leadership and political qualities.

In turn the Ministry of Radio, Film, and Television intends to revise the procedure for issuing permits to show television movies. Ministry officials believe that the license-issuing procedure was very slipshod, and in some cases there were financial abuses. As a result, the number of productions increased 300 (!) times over the past 10 years. Two-stage licenses are now being introduced: provisional and long-term. The former are valid just for one specific production, while the latter are issued for three years. A special department of the Ministry of Radio, Film, and Television will issue licenses and also supervise the production activity of producers.

Northeast Asia

Kim Yong-sam Summarizes Visit to Soviet Union

SK3003075890 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Mr Kim Yong-sam, president [as heard] of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], the governing party of the ROK, held a press conference with domestic and foreign reporters on 26 March at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations [IMEMO] in Moscow.

He is now visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of Vladimir Martynov, director and lecturer of the institute.

Opening the press conference, Vladimir Martynov explained to the press functionaries about the signing of a joint communique on the results of his visit and his meetings with the representatives of the leading circles in the Soviet Union, as well as with scientific and cultural activists during his sojourn in the Soviet Union.

Following this, Mr Kim Yong-sam spoke. He said:

[Begin Kim recording] Let me briefly say something before answering your questions.

I am very happy to see you, the world's foremost reporters, once again after last June.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to those in the Soviet Union, including the Soviet leadership, who have accorded us hospitability, as well as to the reporters who have covered, with great concern, the activity of our delegation during its visit to the Soviet Union.

During my second visit to the Soviet Union, I saw with my own eyes that the perestroyka policy and glasnost policy based on President Gorbachev's "new political thinking" are being carried out more briskly. It seems to me that the Soviet Union, while vigorously pushing ahead with democratization domestically, has now found a way to solve all the immediate, difficult problems. Also, I find it to be very useful that the Soviet Union has gained substantial success in its foreign policy after initiating its epochal open-door policy and has caused the waves of the open-door policy to affect even East Europe.

I am convinced that a successful enforcement of the perestroyka policy will not stop merely at benefiting the Soviet Union, but it will also contribute to peace in the world and to human prosperity as a whole.

So, I wish the Soviet Union complete success in carrying out such a policy and wholeheartedly wish the Soviet leadership, including President Gorbachev, and the Soviet people good luck. I expect that they will do their best.

Astonishing progress, both qualitatively and quantitatively, has been made in Korean-Soviet relations in various areas, including material and humanitarian exchanges. In particular, the economic exchange has annually grown by 150 to 200 percent. Nevertheless, there are many obstacles to overcome in the future.

I believe that politics and economics are inseparable, just like the two faces of a coin. This being my view, I believe that Korean-Soviet relations should be developed in direction where politics and economics are integrated, departing from the principle of separating politics from the economy. Now, I am returning with the conviction that Korean-Soviet relations will take on that nature sooner or later.

Not only will this be in the interests of the two countries, but it will also contribute to peace on the Korean peninsula and its reunification, to peace in the world, and to human prosperity. This is my belief.

My meetings with many of those in the Soviet leadership during my visit have been very serious and rewarding. Through these meetings, I was able to affirm the will and zeal on the part of the Soviet leadership to improve bilateral relations between Korea and the Soviet Union. This pleased me very much.

Also, availing myself of this opportunity, I once again extend my gratitude to the Soviet leaders and those concerned who are making positive efforts toward this end.

I will do my best, even if it may turn out to be of small account, to achieve substantial improvement in relations between our two countries at the earliest possible date in the belief that the mutual understanding, exchange, and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries will be promoted more rapidly.

In conclusion, I hope that the Soviet reform policy will bear fruit without fail. I also believe that it will turn out that way.

Thank you. [end recording]

Then, Mr Kim Yong-sam answered questions raised by the reporters.

Here is the question by (?Lobotniy), TRIBUNA reporter:

[Announcer reads question by (?Lobotniy)] Tell us, Mr Kim Yong-sam, [words indistinct] in what direction do you think our political relations will develop?

[Begin Kim recording] As recently as a few years ago, we and the Soviet Union in fact harbored hostile sentiments toward each other. But my visit to the Soviet Union last June opened the door between the ROK and the Soviet Union. This does not necessarily mean that we have just crossed a high mountain or that we have sailed from one continent to another across the ocean. What we have done during our visit to this country can be said to be an undertaking that has transformed one era of history into another. [end recording]

[Announcer reads question by (?Lobotniy)] (?Lobotniy) asks: Mr President, you said that you are convinced that the relations between our two countries will be normalized in the very near future. What is your assessment of the outcome of your meetings and talks with the Soviet leaders? In what condition do you think our relations will develop in the future? Also, do you think there is a stumbling block on this road?

[Begin Kim recording] There is no great stumbling block between the two countries. There were talks about the establishment of consular relations, interim measures designed to substantively advance toward the establishment of diplomatic relations—I take them to mean missions and other such things. Some of the Soviet leaders referred to interim stages, that is to say measures aimed at upgrading the consular relations. It remains to be seen whether such interim stages are necessary on the road to the normalization of diplomatic relations. We will give thought to this issue in the future. [end recording]

This question is also for the director of the IMEMO. Does the IMEMO of the Soviet Union have (a very high degree of support) for signing a communique with the governing party?

[Unidentified person speaks in Russian]

[Announcer reads response] Vladimir Martynov, director of the IMEMO, states that the institute is deeply studying the issues related to international relations.

Also, scientific and social sectors in our country play a great role in the so-called civilian diplomacy. We, who respect the scholars at the institute, think that the Institute has the authority to sign such a communique on its own.

[Begin Kim recording] The IMEMO's position is of great significance. I hope you would recall the fact that the director of the IMEMO invited Chancellor Brandt, then an opposition party leader in the sixties, to visit the Soviet Union and this shortly led to the normalization of relations between the Soviet Union and West Germany.

I also want you to especially recall the person who invited me to visit the Soviet Union in June last year. He is a very important person who had served the IMEMO as its director, the current director Martynov's predecessor, and who currently holds the office of the speaker of the (?Supreme Soviet). Just today, he was appointed to the 17-member executive committee for the president of the Soviet Union. So, I will maintain my friendly ties with Speaker Primakov.

Although we have been maintaining ties with [name indistinct], what I would like you to pay particular attention to is that our DLP and the Communist Party, the governing party of the Soviet Union, have agreed to exchanges between them. [end recording]

[Announcer reads question] A Soviet TV reporter asks: This coming June marks the 40th anniversary of the outbreak of a war fought on the Korean peninsula. Mr President [as heard], do you intend to put forward any kind of proposal to bring an end to the consequences of war by taking advantage of [word indistinct]?

[Begin Kim recording] I am pleased with the question put by the Moscow TV reporter. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the war fought between the North and South, a war we call the 25 June. The mention of the war makes us look back on the unforgettable past.

It was among the most tragic of wars. Hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of people died during the war. The number simply cannot be determined. And millions of people had to leave their homes in search of refuge. I think there should not be such a war again not only on the Korean peninsula, but also in the world at large. What counts most in this regard is dialogue between the North and South. Material and humanitarian exchanges, too. Most important of all, the North and South should trust each other.

I hope that there will come an era when all the people in the North and South, including the separated families, can freely travel anywhere they choose, as in West and East Germany.

At this juncture, when not only the Soviet Union, but also all the countries in East Europe are changing, North Korea will also change without fail. This is my belief.

I sincerely hope that the North and South will have economic talks, parliamentary talks, and the Red Cross talks, not to mention political talks. Even though I have already said it in my speech at Moscow University, I once again call for a summit talk between President No Tae-u and President Kim Il-song in order to ease tensions between the North and South and to pave the way for [word indistinct] reunification. The North and South can discuss anything in such a talk.

The North and South have more than a million armed men along the national border [kukkyongson] between them. We can even discuss disarmament issues in order to rescue the country from war. In this context, the Soviet role played in preserving peace on the Korean peninsula is of great importance. [end recording]

[Announcer reads question] The TASS reporter asks: What is your opinion on the reduction of U.S. troops stationed in the ROK?

[Begin Kim recording] The discussion of the U.S. troops has nothing to do with the reunification issue. As you, the TASS reporter, may remember, a considerable number of U.S. troops are stationed in West Germany. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union has normalized relations with both of them. [end recording]

Mr Kim Yong-sam answered questions raised by other domestic and foreign reporters.

Soviet-South Korean Trade Talks Reported

LD2903170590 Moscow TASS in English 1609 GMT 29 Mar 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo March 29 TASS—Soviet-South Korean goods turnover grew by over 150 per cent last year, it was revealed at the second joint conference of Soviet and South Korean business circles, which was held in Seoul for a week.

The Soviet delegation was headed by Chairman of the Soviet-South Korean Council for Economic Cooperation V. Golanov, the South Korean—by President of the Korean-Soviet Economic Association Chung Jung Young.

The two countries' economic structures supplement each other. South Korea and the Soviet Union have good opportunities for increased trade and economic, scientific and technological ties, it was stressed at the conference.

The delegations pointed to progress in the development of bilateral relations. The Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Korean Corporation To Promote the Development of Trade opened their offices and consulates in Seoul and Moscow.

Four of the largest South Korean companies have opened offices in Moscow. Soviet Litsensintorg foreign trade amalgamation's office will soon open in Seoul. The sides have reached an agreement to open a direct air route between the two countries. South Korean goods exhibitions were held in the Soviet Union and a Soviet exhibition is scheduled for this May in Seoul.

The foundation for Soviet-South Korean business relations is sufficiently firm to support a second stage of economic cooperation.

Goods turnover between the Soviet Union and South Korea is rapidly growing and reached 600 million U.S. dollars last year, as compared to 290 million dollars in 1988. But its share in the two countries' foreign trade is yet insignificant.

A considerable number of deliveries are conducted via third countries. The sides agreed to combine efforts to increase their trade and improve its structure, first of all by exchanging finished goods and technologies.

An agreement to activate their interaction in the field of investments was signed. In order to stimulate mutual investments, including joint ventures and special economic zones, it will be expedient to establish a certain legal mechanism of guarantees, eliminate double taxation, and take other measures to improve investment conditions.

The Soviet side suggested projects for bilateral cooperation on Soviet territory, mainly in Siberia and the Far East. There are considerable opportunities for cooperation in the light, electronic, shipbuilding and timber industries and the financial sphere.

The sides agreed that it is possible to combine Soviet scientific and technical achievements with South Korean opportunities. This will help modernise the two countries' economies.

Protocol on CSSR-ROK Relations To Be Signed

SK2403120190 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] In Prague on 22 March, a meeting to sign a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between the CSSR and the ROK will be held.

As reported by the Czechoslovak News Agency, CSSR Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier and ROK Foreign Minister Choe Ho-Chung will sign the protocol.

In addition, other accords on guaranteeing foreign investments and on avoiding double tariffs will be signed.

A basic agreement on the exchange of ambassadors between the CSSR and the ROK was reached early this year when a delegation of the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Seoul.

Following Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia is the fourth Eastern European country which has established official relations with Seoul.

Bulgaria, ROK Establish Diplomatic Relations

SK2503045490 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] According to Bulgaria's BTA, Bulgaria and the ROK have established diplomatic relations. A treaty for it was signed in Sofia by foreign ministers of the two countries, Boyko Dimitrov and Choe Ho-chung.

Prior to this, the ROK established diplomatic relations with Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Supreme Soviet Delegation Arrives in Sri Lanka

LD2103092490 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, 19 Mar (TASS)—A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, headed by G.N. Kiselev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities Commission on Consumer Goods, Trade, Communal, Everyday, and Other Services to the Population, arrived here today at the invitation of the parliament of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan officials, and also Yu.M. Kotov, USSR ambassador to Sri Lanka, met the Soviet guests at Katunayake international airport. The head of the Soviet delegation made a statement at the airport. "Relations between the Soviet Union and Sri Lanka are traditionally termed as friendly. They are based on principles of mutual trust and respect, equality, and nonintererence in each other's affairs," he pointed out. "We hope that the present visit will further the development of long-term cooperation between the USSR and Sri Lanka," G.N. Kiselev noted. "The forthcomihng meetings will enable the parliamentarians of both countries to hold an exchange of opinions on a broad range of questions concerning the situation in the world and the South Asia region and on bilateral relations. We will acquaint the Sir Lankan legislators with the practical steps undertaken in the USSR to radically renew the life of Soviet society. Naturally, questions of the renewal and development of Soviet-Sri Lankan interparliamentary cooperation, of the coordination of efforts of the legislative bodies of the USSR and Sri Lanka in international affairs will be discussed," he stressed.

Ariya Rikava expressed confidence that the visit of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to Sri Lanka, whose program is highly intense, will make a considerable contribution to the consolidation of friendly bilateral relations and will be a major landmark in the deepening of mutual understanding between the peoples of the two states.

Cambodia Prospects After Jakarta Meeting Viewed

PM3003082790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 5

[Special correspondents B. Vasilyev, B. Vinogradov dispatch: "'We Cannot Guarantee Your Safety...' Difficult Quest for Compromise in Cambodian Settlement Process"]

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh—[passage omitted] The last informal meeting on the Cambodian problem, held at the end of February in Jakarta, demonstrated once again the incompatibility of the rival parties' interests and their unwillingness to enter into compromise. Let us recall that this was the third meeting at this level, and probably the least successful. President Suharto of Indonesia was forced to declare with regret that Jakarta had exhausted all its possibilities in "attempts to reconcile the Khmers" and that therefore it regarded its mission as concluded.

As is known, in the course of the preceding two rounds agreement had been reached on two key issues—the need for all Vietnamese troops to be withdrawn from Cambodia, and the establishment of guarantees that the genocide regime would not be reinstated in the country. At the time, more than a year ago, all the participants put their signatures to these points.

But later, after the Vietnamese had withdrawn and the need arose to implement the second point of the accord, the "Khmers Rouges" emerged as an obstacle in the way of achieving this goal. This was to be expected. Pol Pot's men are perfectly well aware that at present they cannot pin their hopes on elections if they should be held. They have left too repulsive an impression in people's memory, and they have too odious an image in the eyes of the world public. Plainly, this was the reason why Khieu Samphan, leader of the Pol Pot grouping at the Jakarta talks, using his right of veto, objected to the inclusion in the final document of the word "genocide," which is a reminder of the tragedy in Cambodia, thus practically thwarting the meeting. Observers had reason to conclude that the Pol Pot men are hoping to get their way not at a "roundtable" but on the battlefield.

In their efforts to unravel the knot of contradictions, some Cambodia pundits are asking themselves why the "Khmers Rouges" have not unleashed active combat operations since September of last year when the Vietnamese troops withdrew, but are instead confining themselves only to providing limited support for the military operations of their allies? This is a reference to the detachments of fighters of the so-called "Khmer people's front of national liberation" headed by Son Sann, former premier of the puppet regime, and also to Sihanouk's military grouping. According to various reports the numerical strength of each of these groupings totals between 8,000 and 10,000 men.

"The 'Khmers Rouge,' twice as strong as their allies in terms of numbers and many times stronger in terms of combat training, are behaving strangely in merely coordinating joint operations," Colonel Ang Sum, deputy chief of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces Main Political Directorate, told us. "They are contriving to stay on the sidelines, while sending Sihanouk's and Son Sann's troups into sheer hell."

And indeed, if you analyze the operations to capture Pailin and Svai Chek, attempts to launch an assault on the country's second biggest city Battambang, and subsequently also on Siem Reap, you will see that Pol Pot's men took part in these battles only in small numbers. Why? There are two views on this. First, Pol Pot is saving his army, waiting for the right moment to take decisive action, and meanwhile burning up the reserves of the other parties involved in the conflict. Second—and this seems more probable—he is gambling on "quietly infiltrating" small groups into remote areas where propaganda work is conducted among the population and the social groundwork is being laid for the future elections. In this the Pol Pot men are using tried and tested methods—disinformation, gambling on national sentiments, promises of a better life, bribery of officials, and terror in respect of party activists.

In short, the "Khmers Rouge" remain at the focus of the tripartite coalition and control its policy in one way or another. In the summer of last year it was announced that Pol Pot had allegedly given up all his posts and was no longer involved in the leadership, and a great effort was made to present this as a "renewal of the essence of the whole movement," an admission of past mistakes, and a shift to "positions of pure patriotism." However, there is evidence that the former dictator has by no means renounced his powers and continues to play a decisive role not only in his own camp but also in the coalition as a whole. While remaining in the shadows, he holds all the members of the opposition in a viselike grip.

As for Norodom Sihanouk, having laid down the post of president of "Democratic Kampuchea," he is now in the questionable position, which he now claims, of a "private individual." Having declared that he has nothing in common with the opposition, he nonetheless continues to come forward with initiatives on its behalf—which does not tie in with the role of a "recluse." His last meeting with Hun Sen in Bangkok, where preliminary agreement was reached on the creation of a Supreme National Council in Cambodia under UN auspices, was more symbolic in nature than anything else. The dialogue is to be continued, but it is obvious right now how difficult and complex the debate will be on the levels of representation in this organ, which is to embody sovereignty and national integrity throughout the transitional period, that is, the period between the entry into force of the cease-fire agreement and the creation of a coalition government on the basis of the results of universal, free elections.

Hun Sen has proposed that the council should be put together on a bilateral basis, with the seats divided equally between the present government and the opposition. Sihanouk, on the other hand, under strong pressure from the "Khmers Rouge," is putting forward a quadripartite option. In addition he continues to insist on his five-point plan for a settlement (also foisted on him, incidentally, by the Pol Pot men), which features as categorical preconditions demands for the dissolution of the Phnom Penh government, reduction of the four sides' armed forces to equal levels, and so forth.

"We will not agree to self-dissolution," is how Hun Sen explained his government's position at a meeting with journalists. "This is an unfair demand. We now represent the only force capable of preventing the return of Pol Pot's men. Our people will never forgive us if we make this concession. However, we are prepared to enter into compromise. Let there be two administrations during the transitional period, each of them controlling its own territory. Let the elections take place under international control. Sihanouk's fears that he will not be allowed to conduct his election campaign here are unfounded. Take the example of Nicaragua where the government of D. Ortega, acting as the country's executive, was nonetheless defeated in an election. What is stopping our opposition from entering into an honest contest? If we lose, we will resign. But it must be the will of the people. And we will create all the conditions necessary for the UN monitoring organs. Our parliament is ready for this."

Hun Sen is not inclined to regard the informal meeting in Jakarta as a "resounding failure." A flexible politician and a subtle strategist, he understands the whole complexity of the path toward a settlement. He cited the fundamental agreement of all the sides to UN participation in eliminating the conflict as one of the positive results of this round. In this context great hopes are being pinned on the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, who have assumed the task of overcoming the present impasse—as reflected in the talks which they concluded a few days ago in Paris. Much will also depend on the great powers' agreement to stop arms deliveries to the Cambodian sides. As is known, the Soviet Union has declared a moratorium on military aid to the State of Cambodia as from the beginning of the current year. If the other powers follow Moscow's example and a UN commission takes on the supervision of the ban on arms deliveries, the much-hoped-for peace in Cambodia will be achieved much earlier.

...Many problems which are aggravating the situation throughout the Asia-Pacific region and hampering moves toward a transformation of that region into a zone of peace, good-neighborliness, and cooperation are reflected in the focus of the Cambodian conflict. However, it is pleasing to note that not just Asian countries are showing increasing interest in the elimination of this hotbed of tension. It remains to be hoped that a way will nonetheless be found out of the prevailing impasse.

In the meantime, the request made by our whole group of journalists, who had come specially to acquaint themselves with the current situation in Cambodia, to visit the northwest border areas was politely declined. "The situation there is complex," a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the State of Cambodia told us. "We cannot guarantee your safety..."

Commentator Views War Situation in Cambodia

BK2703035290 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1230 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Aleksey Nikolayev commentary]

[Text] Judging from the reports from Cambodia and Thailand, the fighting between the Cambodian opposition groups' forces and the Army of the State of Cambodia has reached a decisive stage with the opposition side retreating. Our commentator, Comrade Aleksey Nikolayev, has this comment:

Immediately after the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops last September, the armed forces of the Cambodian opposition groups launched a vigorous offensive. They wanted to exploit the new situation in their favor and, through military means, to seize the power in Cambodia or at least larger territory. Even those countries which throughout the whole span of the Cambodian conflict have provided aid to the Cambodian opposition groups, have hoped so. Despite their repeated promises, those countries have not suspended their arms aid to the Pol Pot and two other opposition groups following the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops. On the contrary, they have even increased their aid. As a result, the political and military situation in some of Cambodia's regions bordering Thailand has deteriorated. In the first stage, the Cambodian resistance forces could really seize some victories by being able to establish their foothold in some communes. But that was all, because the government's army managed to prevent the armed forces of the Cambodian opposition groups from moving on.

Since then, three months have elapsed. Has the situation on the battlefield changed? Regarding this matter, Thai press media have quoted a statement by a representative of Son Sann, leader of a Cambodian opposition group, as saying: A liberated zone has no sense now, because the on-going offensive shows our inability to stand up to the pressure of the Phnom Penh armed forces.

The representative of Son Sann also admitted that lately the resistance forces had been compelled to abandon a number of towns seized previously. But the question of halting the resistance has not yet been discussed.

The representative also revealed that the resistance forces have now reverted to their old tactics of hit and run.

Our commentator, Aleksey Nikolayev, concludes: Let me express my opinion by recalling an appeal issued recently by a large group of members of the Thai House of Representatives calling on the Thai prime minister to close all the passages through which foreign arms aid has often been dispatched to the Pol Pot group and its allies in the opposition side. Such a step will certainly cause a concrete impact on leaders of the three resistance groups and will bring the warring Cambodian factions to resume their negotiation. Certainly, the prospect of the solution rests not in the military field but in the diplomatic forum.

Near East & South Asia

Arbatov Speaks on Emigration, Other Issues

JN2903202290 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Mar 90 pp 1, 23

[Report by Nicholas Nasir on a "statement" to AL-WATAN by Academic Georgiy Arbatov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and director of the United States of America and Canada Institute affiliated with the USSR Academy of Sciences]

[Text] "The cold war has ended and the rules of the international game have changed rapidly. The old scenarios of the major powers, particularly the strategic ones, will not be repeated. This part of the world—the Middle East—has been neglected and limited in our political thinking; we should promote its level of attention. Our main problem now is stability in the most important parts of the world; namely, Europe and the Middle East. And the second problem is to ensure we do not return to cold war relations with the United States."

Arbatov, currently visiting Kuwait on his first tour of the Middle East, is considered a senior adviser to Gorbachev on American affairs. He said that "the cold war has given Israel a size larger than its actual one. But the Americans now believe that the distance between Managua and Washington is the same as that between Gibraltar and Moscow [sentence as published]. The mentality of the cold war and its considerations have played a very serious role in U.S. Middle East policy. Therefore, I believe that the end of the cold war will mean many things to this region. I do not believe that the situation in the Middle East will remain as it is for long; it should change because we are in an era of changes. The USSR will support a fair settlement of the Palestine question in the Middle East. Hence, the Arabs can depend on the USSR because it will honor its commitments. We support the establishment of a Palestinian state and the liberation of the occupied territory; we strongly oppose the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territory. We called in the United Nations for international pressure to prevent the Israeli Government from settling the Jews in the occupied territory."

Arbatov added: "Emigration is an issue that concerns us; we allow everyone to leave. The Germans are at the top of the list in terms of numbers; there are also Armenians, Jews, and Ukrainians."

Arbatov said: "We do not want them to leave; we prefer that they remain in the country, because they are dear citizens. The state has spent money on their education and health. However, we cannot prevent them. This is our policy; it has nothing to do with what the Americans, British, Israelis, or others think. It is our decision; we have decided to build a democratic society. We also have international commitments. However, we are faithful to our commitments in the Middle East also.

He added: "The problem has been exaggerated. The number [of emigrants] is not large enough to make a large change in the situation. I do not think that the emigration will increase or even that it will remain at its present level; it will diminish if we succeed in our efforts and apply international pressure. The problem has been exaggerated. The issue may have been raised by the Israelis themselves to spoil relations between the USSR and the Arab countries. I believe that the numbers will be in the tens of thousands rather than hundreds of thousands. If we analyze the emigration, we will find that those who emigrated for religious or racist motives already left a long time ago, but the emigrants who seek a better life want to go to the United States and Western Europe, not Israel."

On Lithuania, Arbatov said that only 41 per cent of the citizens participated in the recent elections; and 28 per cent of those elected the government that took the separation decision. Up until now, it is not the opinion of all the people, therefore, they are calling for a referendum. There are economic problems that prevent their separation: We have built a very large port and a nuclear power station that supplies the USSR with electricity. There is a also a Russian minority representing 20 per cent of the people. Therefore, we are now studying the required rules for separation that must be in accordance with the law.

Arbatov denied that the USSR has relinquished the Third World to America. He said: "We have not handed the world to America. We only stopped waging this ridiculous cold war with America. This means we have left the world to itself."

Israeli Settlement in Territories Condemned

LD2903122490 Moscow TASS in English 1220 GMT 29 Mar 90

[By TASS analyst Albert Balebanov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The Israeli parliament passed a resolution on Wednesday, confirming the legality of the 1980 Law on Jerusalem that legally sealed the annexation of East Jerusalem, declaring it the "Eternal and indivisible" capital of Israel.

The resolution also said that the Syrian Golan Heights are "part of Israeli territory".

Tel Aviv's action is an open challenge to Arabs and the international community and threatens to worsen the Middle East conflict.

Undoubtedly, the Knesset resolution was influenced by a political demarche taken by the U.S. Senate three days ago.

Under pressure from the pro-Israeli lobby, U.S. senators approved a resolution that says that Jerusalem is and shall remain the capital of the State of Israel.

Direct support by the United States has prompted the Knesset to include in its resolution a provision that says that all israeli residents and arriving Jewish immigrants can settle in practically all the occupied Arab territories, including in East Jerusalem.

This is not only an insult to the Arab world and disrespectful of world opinion, but also an open instigation to disrupt the unique character of the holy places in Jerusalem.

Tel Aviv's call to arriving Jewish immigrants, including from the Soviet Union, to settle in the Arab territories can only be regarded as a challenge to the entire international community, which has condemned the illegal israeli policy of forceful colonisation and occupation of Arab territories.

This has been confirmed at the ongoing session of the U.N. Security Council, called at the request of the Soviet Union.

Speakers at the session stress that such steps by Tel Aviv contradict the United Nations charter and norms of international law and call for sanctions against Israel.

Apparently, Shamir's cabinet is using the in-flow of Jewish immigrants to drive Palestinians out of the occupied Arab territories and end the intifada.

However, the implementation of Tel Aviv's plan to settle Jewish immigrants on the occupied lands will only increasingly isolate Israel from the world.

As for Tel Aviv's claims for Syrian lands under the pretext that Golan Heights are crucial to Israel's security, these efforts are both illegal and futile.

No country in the world has recognised that Golan Heights belong to Israel, confirming that the Arab-Israeli conflict must be solved through political means after Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab lands.

Jewish Emigration Seen Continuing 'in Other Ways'

TA2703174590 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Commentary by Andrey Vasilyev; read by announcer]

[Text] The Hungarian airline Malev will resume flights transporting new immigrants from the Soviet Union on its planes. This was reported by the Hungarian agriculture minister, who is visiting Israel. Our commentator Andrey Vasilyev writes in this context that as is known, Malev decided to [word indistinct] the transport of new immigrants from the USSR after receiving threats from the Islamic Jihad that its aircraft would be blown up. The Malev directorate took this threat seriously and decided to forgo the (?issue), but this refusal lasted for only a few days, since the Hungarian Government did not support the resolution and saw it as capitulation to international terrorism.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine is actually an obscure organization. Judging by its name, its center is in the occupied territories and it is closely affiliated with the fundamentalist movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The possibility that the organization's headquarters is in Lebanon should not be ruled out, because it is there that the groups specializing in international flight terrorism are found.

Incidentally, one can conjecture ad infinitum, but in this case this is not the heart of the matter. Over the past few weeks, the Arab countries and the PLO have reacted with dismay—to put it mildly—to the increasing influx of Soviet immigration. The overt protests began after the declaration by Prime Minister Shamir that a large wave of immigrants requires a large Eretz Yisra'el. Arab personalities called upon the Soviet leadership to prevent the possible settlement of Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories. The entire delicate situation [words indistinct] the Soviet Government cannot, as per the statements of officials, and does not wish to take any measures that conflict with international norms, first and foremost in regard to the civilian right to free movement.

The charges in this regard should be directed to the Israeli leaders, who permit irresponsible pronouncements and who come out with provocative plans that impinge upon the Palestinians' rights. The attempt to (?stop) Jewish emigration from the USSR in violent ways is, in my view, an appeal to the worst method—that of terrorism. I do not know how to call it: regular terrorism or international terrorism, but this is not the point. First of all, the threats are simply ineffectual because emigration will continue, although in other ways; and second—and this is the most important point—any time the Soviet immigrants encounter danger, this will detrimentally affect Soviet public opinion in connection with the relations between our country and the Arab states.

The people in the USSR, over the past 18 or 24 months, have had the opportunity to be convinced, based on their own experience, that lack of tolerance in ethnic interrelations turns into death and is accompanied by conflagrations. The fact that blood leads to only more blood is well known, and we do not want blood to be shed regularly. Most of the new-generation politicians who reach ruling positions in our country are aware of the fact that a way out of the deadlock can be found only through concessions and the honoring of all the sides' interests. It is doubtful whether anyone would appreciate people who hide bombs or other explosives behind words like justice.

Arab Displeasure at Jewish Emigrants Grows

90UI0459 Moscow TRUD in Russian
20 Mar p 3

[Article by TRUD correspondent E. Nalbandyan: "Looking for Those To Blame: Jewish Emigration From the Soviet Union to Israel Continues To Cause Acute Reaction in the Arab World"]

[Text] Cairo, March—Every day Egyptian newspapers publish scores of articles sharply criticizing the Israel intention to settle emigres from the Soviet Union on the occupied Arab territories. Lately, some public organizations joined the campaign which was begun by the mass media. For example, here is an excerpt from a special statement on the problem made by the Egyptian Labor Federation, a trade union center representing about four million workers: "It is with enormous concern that the Egyptian Labor Federation views the data about Soviet Jews emigrating to the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza strip. This emigration is targeted at supporting Tel-Aviv claims of a "great Israel" and it is a direct aggression against the Arab people of Palestine. It aims to continue the policy of driving the Arabs out of their homeland, to deprive them of their legitimate right for self-determination and creation of an independent state... The emigration conducted under the banner of defending human rights turned into the most flagrant violation of Palestinian rights." The document was signed by the Egyptian Labor Federation president, Ahmed al-Amavi [name as published], and here is what it says in its conclusion: "It is not sufficient to merely issue statements in the current situation. We need concrete actions directed at stopping the Soviet Jews from settling on the occupied lands."

This tense and nervous situation sometimes breeds absurd rumors. The Cairo opposition newspaper AL-WAFD, for instance, used a rather peculiar manner to treat the introduction of an additional Aeroflot flight from Cairo to Moscow. According to the newspaper, the flight was meant specifically to transport Soviet immigrants to Israel.

"It is absolutely false," I was told by the Aeroflot deputy representative in Cairo, A. Ananyin. "This route has been quite overloaded during the last two or three years. There are many more tourists now, more people have started going on business trips; the number of people going to visit their relations has increased considerably. One TU-154 a week could not cope with this situation. The Aeroflot managers complied with our requests and introduced an additional flight—one every two weeks now; later it will become more frequent.

"We meet and send off every flight," continued A. Ananyin, "and I can state quite responsibly that not a single emigrant has gone to Israel through Cairo yet. A small percentage of passengers are really destined for Israel but these are not emigrants. They just go to visit their relatives. After spending some time there these people return to the USSR by the same route."

The Cairo Intourist office, as well as the USSR trade mission in the Arab Republic of Egypt provided me with the exact data: The number of Soviet tourists to Egypt has increased threefold, the number of those who come on business trips has more than doubled.

In short, the article in AL-WAFD turned out to be not quite accurate, to put it mildly. However, it achieved what it was supposed to do—it stirred up public emotions.

An acquaintance of mine, a Egyptian journalist, shows his bewilderment: "I do not understand why the USSR does not want to stop the emigration to Israel. You are our friends, you have always said that you support the Palestinians, and now you let huge numbers of Jews go. They will help to strengthen Israel and deprive the Palestinians of their lands. Stop letting them out and the emotions will immediately die down!"

I try to explain to him that we have changed our attitude toward the protection of human rights and will not keep anyone by force. As for the Palestinians, we continue to support their struggle and demand that Israel not create settlements on the occupied territories.

"You demand and they do it anyway," he objects. "You should not demand, you should stop them from leaving. Then the problem will cease to exist."

This kind of logic leads you into a cul-de-sac. As there are no ways out of verbal cul-de-sacs the tension is growing. It is especially true when speaking about the streets—people not well versed in politics. More and more often they repeat that "the Soviet Union is to blame" for everything. Lately, accusations of the USSR in mosques are growing more frequent too, by the way.

Some of the new declarations are even more threatening. Bassam abu-Sharif [name as published], one of the political advisers to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, expressed this opinion: "We consider settling Soviet Jews on the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip as war against the people of Palestine and against the entire Arab nation. This can only lead to retaliatory actions by our side." (?!)

Meanwhile, the information came that Egyptian authorities had heightened security on buses traveling between Cairo and Tel-Aviv. That happened after the February terrorist act on the highway near Cairo when nine Israeli tourists were killed. The investigation of the incident is going on. No one was blamed for it yet...

Shamir's Election Loses Due to 'Occupation' Policy

90UI0461A Moscow LITERTURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 12, 21 Mar 90 p 9

[Article by Igor Belyayev: "Shamir Lost by a Count of 55- 60"]

[Text] So, last Thursday the Israeli parliament (Knesset) voted on a resolution for a vote of confidence in the government that was introduced by Shimon Peres, the leader of the Labor Party. For the last 15 months the government has been headed by Yitzhak Shamir, the leader of the right bloc "Likud." Now both sides in the national unity cabinet are engaged in seeking partners among Knesset representatives of religious and other small parties and groups in order to form a new government. If, of course, it works out. In the event this fails, apparently, special general parliamentary elections will be held.

The current governmental crisis in this country is unusual. First of all, because it reflects very, very important changes which have occurred in Israel during the last two and more years. I have in mind first and foremost the Palestinian intifadah, which has already lasted 26 months, and the very important moves for the beginning of a really peaceful process in the Middle East.

But, nonetheless, why did Shamir lose? Because literally yesterday it seemed to him that the clever maneuvers he undertook that were directed against the participation of both the Soviet Union and the Palestinians in this process...

It all started on 15 January of this year. On that day, Shamir announced that he would settle 300,000 immigrants—Soviet Jews who will arrive in Israel in the next three years—on Arab lands that were captured in June 1967. The reader cannot even imagine what started after this announcement. The entire Arab world became alarmed. The realpolicy makers began to talk about the fact that the Soviet Union had stopped being an honest partner of the Arabs and that it is now favoring creeping Israeli annexation. In fact, if something like this would succeed, then the number of Israeli settlements on the West Bank of the River Jordan, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, would increase sharply. And it would actually wreck a just Middle East settlement, which we are calling for.

We will mention that the Soviet Union expressed, in particular, a readiness to take part in negotiations in Cairo between Israel and the Palestinians, at first in the role of an observer. Egyptian President Mubarak has assumed the role of negotiations organizer...

It is natural that after Shamir's announcement of 25 January any kind of participation by the Soviet Union in the forthcoming negotiations was out of the question. The Arab and Palestinian sides waited for explanations. They followed. On 9 February of this year, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs resolutely announced that Shamir's plan is at variance with the generally accepted norms of international law. In particular, it is a question of the violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, signed by Israel, which excludes deportation or moving part of its own population to occupied territory.

It was also pointed out that the Soviet Union never recognized Israel's 1967 occupation of Arab, including Palestinian, territories, that it considers it illegal and demands its cessation in accordance with well-known resolutions of the United Nations Organization.

The extreme right-wing "Likud," which is headed by the "hawk" Sharon, began the attack on Shamir for the purpose of not allowing the participation of Palestinians—residents of East Jerusalem—in the forthcoming negotiations. It is not difficult to conclude that the attack of one extreme right figure against another in the "Likud" bloc had as its objective to force the Israeli premier to repudiate negotiations entirely. Although the United States also came out against the establishment of new Israeli settlements on the occupied Arab territories and for negotiations with the Palestinians. Sharon resigned, and, after a month, Shamir's government ceased to exist...

You and I have been witnesses to the great political failure of those in Israel who, ignoring the inevitability of a just resolution of the Palestinian problem, intend to continue the political occupation of Arab lands. This line does not work today. Israel is changing. The Labor Party understood this, and it now intends to form its own ruling cabinet. The near future will tell whether Peres, in company with Rabin, will succeed. It seems to me that they have a chance of success today. In the event that the Labor Party comes to power, as I think it will, Shamir will also reject extreme anti-Sovietism, although I have yet to be convinced of this. As for the settlement of Soviet immigrant-Jews on the West Bank of the River Jordan and in the Gaza Strip, the very near future will convince them that a joint struggle against possible arbitrary rule by Israel is the best way for a truly just Middle East settlement.

Security Council on Israel, Occupied Territories

LD2803152690 Moscow TASS in English 0643 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] New York March 28 TASS—The United Nations Security Council on Tuesday continued to discuss Israel's settlement of the occupied territories. The Council met at the Soviet Union's request.

Sutresna, permanent representative of the Indonesia at the United Nations, expressed concern over the fact that Israel's policy is leading to serious demographic changes on the occupied territories, thereby constituting a flagrant violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Li Luye, permanent representative of China at the United Nations, emphasised that the Israeli authorities' actions put new obstacles in the path of the search for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem. Other speakers agreed.

Some speakers suggested that the Soviet Union limit or suspend the departure of Jews from the country.

However, as A.M. Belonogov, permanent representative of the Soviet Union at the United Nations, explained at the Council's previous meeting on the issue, the Soviet Union may not take this step, for it would run counter to Soviet policy of ensuring equal rights and freedoms for all citizens of the Soviet Union irrespective of their nationality.

It is Israel, not the Soviet Union, which should change its behaviour on the matter, the Soviet representative said.

Rethinking of Approach Toward Golan Urged

TA2503022590 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Commentary by Oleg Ivanov; read by announcer]

[Text] Due to numerous events in the Middle East arena, due to the attempts to extricate the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue from the stalemate, and due to the Israeli Government crisis, the question of the Golan Heights seems to have been pushed to the second stage. But not long ago, Yitzhaq Shamir said publicly that Israel will never give up the Golan Heights.

As is known, the Golan Heights are part of Syria's territory captured in the June 1967 war. Fourteen years later, in 1981, Israel unilaterally decided to apply Israeli law to it.

Let us for now [word indistinct] the legal aspect of this move and review the existing situation. Today this area made up of basalt, 70 km in length and 25 km in width, inhabits 13,000 Druze and Syrians plus approximately 7,000 Israeli settlers. Despite all of Israel's attempts to grant them Israeli identity cards, the Druze continue to be Syrian. They protest the application of the Israeli law whenever possible.

The Golan Heights themselves have no economic value, but control over the heights opens a direct route to Damascus. Shamir's declaration no doubt follows the old thinking, that of guaranteeing security through military measures. Syria has nevertheless changed its tune. According to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who has visited Syria not long ago, Hafiz al-Asad is prepared to hold direct talks with Israel over the Golan problem. Thus, Shamir is artificially pushing Israel into the vicious circle. As long as the Golan problem remains unresolved, there will be no normalization of relations with Syria. As long as relations with Syria are tense, it is necessary to hang on to the Golan Heights.

So where is the way out? It should be pointed out that seeing that talk has already begun on a comprehensive Middle East solution, then the issue of the Golan Heights, which were conquered from Syria, will appear on the agenda. It is doubtful whether Syria would forgo this strip of land, and it has every right to do so. If Israel has no intention whatsoever of ceding its occupation, this will result in continued military tension in the region. Under these circumstances, the attainment of a settlement in the Middle East would be unrealistic.

If that is the case, involved is not the fate of the 13,000 Druze and the 7,000 settlers, but the future of millions of people living in the Middle East. Perhaps the new Israeli Government will review this issue from another angle?

Shevardnadze Meets Visiting Algerian Official

PM3003135390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Exchange of Opinions"]

[Text] E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, received 29 March N. Khaffad, general secretary of the

Algerian Foreign Ministry, who is in Moscow for political consultations at the USSR Foreign Ministry.

During a warm and friendly conversation opinions were exchanged on certain international problems of mutual interest. E.A. Shevardnadze noted the importance of strengthening Soviet-Algerian collaboration in seeking solutions to global and regional problems for the sake of creating a secure and nonviolent world. N. Khaffad stated that Algeria shares this approach.

It was stressed at the meeting that favorable preconditions exist for further developing fruitful cooperation between the USSR and Algeria.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Visits South Yemen

LD2803100590 Moscow TASS in English 0921 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Aden March 28 TASS—A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by Saparmurad Niyazov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, chairman of the presidium of the Turkmen Supreme Soviet and Turkmen Communist Party chief, was received on Tuesday by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the politburo of the Yemen Socialist Party and president of the presidium of the Yemeni Parliament.

The Soviet delegation told him about Soviet perestroyka, the role played in it by the USSR Supreme Soviet and the institution of an executive presidency in the USSR.

Al-Attas praised changes in the Soviet Union and pointed to the enormous potential of perestroyka and its influence on life in the Soviet Union, as well on the international situation.

The sides stressed the importance of parliamentary contacts for consolidating relations between the two countries, as well as their crucial role in the quest for new forms of cooperation between the two nations, including those based on the 1979 treaty on friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Beirut Embassy Staff Member Dies in Fire

PM2903114790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 90 Moscow Edition p 3

[Own correspondent G. Charodeyev report: "Staffer Dies at Soviet Embassy in Lebanon"]

[Text] Yesterday's issue (No. 84) featured a report, quoting AFP, that a fire had broken out at the Soviet Embassy in Beirut, during which one person was killed and another injured. In this connection IZVESTIYA's correspondent phoned the USSR Foreign Ministry, where he was given the following explanation:

"Indeed, a fire broke out 23 March at one of the internal buildings at the Soviet Embassy in Lebanon. The cause is presumed to have been a short circuit. Embassy staffers were unable to immediately localize the fire. A local fire crew was called out and helped to put out the fire. One Soviet Embassy staffer received burns. Another—A. Volkov—unfortunately died as a result of major toxin poisoning received as a result of the fire-fighting. The embassy is being given every possible assistance in clearing up after the fire."

Katushev-Led Delegation Ends Visit to Libya

LD3003091490 Moscow TASS in English 0602 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli March 30 TASS—A Soviet Government delegation led by Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister for foreign economic relations, completed its visit to Libya today. At Tripoli international airport the delegation was seen off by Fawsi al-Shakshuki, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Oil.

Before the Soviet delegation's departure Al-Shakshuki and Katushev gave brief interviews to a TASS correspondent on the results of talks that had been held.

"The Soviet delegation's visit to Libya is an illustration of successful development of relations between our two countries," Al-Shakshuki said. "We believe that the talks were fruitful and that new steps have been made along the road of deepening Soviet-Libyan cooperation in various fields. This means that relations between the two countries are progressing."

"I agree with what has just been said, "Katushev remarked. "The talks were really very important. Matters connected with the state of our relations were thoroughly considered and it was agreed that the exchange of views would be continued early in May."

Need for Reactivating Iran-Iraq Talks Noted

NC2803125590 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Yuriy Andreyev commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar requested that Iran and Iraq respond to his latest proposals for resuming direct peace talks between them. A special announcement on this was disseminated at UN headquarters.

On 6 March Perez de Cuellar presented a new program with eight articles for resolving the Iran-Iraq dispute. It was announced that the UN Security Council approved this program, but no details were divulged. At that time, Perez de Cuellar only stated that the relevant proposals had been conveyed to Tehran and Baghdad and that he is optimistic that direct talks between Iran and Iraq would resume in the next two months.

Last Monday, the secretary general's report was circulated in New York, and most of the details of the new UN proposals on the Iran-Iraq dispute transpired. The international community suggests to both sides that through direct talks, all problems pertaining to mutual relations should discussed.

Issues pertaining to a consensus on declaring a cease-fire on the Iran-Iraq front, to freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, to withdrawing armed forces to internationally recognized borders, and to exchanging POWs should be on the agenda of the upcoming talks. In addition, Perez de Cuellar has asked the UN Security Council to allow the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, which has been supervising the cease-fire's implementation since 20 August 1988, be extended. Remember that this group, which was supposed to leave in April, includes 350 military personnel representing 26 countries.

The UN secretary general also called on Tehran and Baghdad to respond more specifically to the international community's latest proposal. In any case, it cannot be said that Iran and Iraq have not already responded to the latest UN proposals. Three days after Perez de Cuellar's proposals, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran concurs with the latest UN proposals. In his statement, the president said that Iran agreed to all the UN proposals in the past year and a half. He said they are fair and are aimed at restoring peace. He also said that Iran agreed to the proposals of the Soviet Union and the Arab Cooperation Council.

Thus Iran has displayed its principled concurrence on direct talks with Iraq under UN supervision. However, Baghdad's official stand on this is still nebulous. Diplomatic circles claim that the government statement on the latest UN proposals will be published soon in Iraq. Iraqi newspapers have reacted positively to the international community's peace-seeking initiatives.

In any case it is clear that Perez de Cuellar is striving to motivate both countries toward more categorical measures. It may be said that the trend of eliminating differences between Iran and Iraq has crossed the stage of mutual recriminations and claims. I think that the lack of consensus between Tehran and Baghdad should also be eliminated.

Moscow Warns Against Iran-Pakistan Cooperation

NC2803151790 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] General 'Ali Shahbazi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran, has returned to Tehran from Islamabad where he discussed issues pertaining to the strengthening of bilateral military collaboration with Pakistani military officials. According to remarks by Shahbazi, military cooperation with Pakistan in general would be in response to the plots of NATO and the Warsaw Pact in the Persian Gulf region and the Arabian Sea and would ensure the security of the region.

However, here at least two questions arise. To what extent is that threat, which has inspired apprehension in the Iranian general, a real one? To what extent are the Pakistani militarists capable of being appropriate partners for Iran in ensuring the security of the region? First of all, the imposition of a [words indistinct] policy on the military pacts in this region has not been completely [words indistinct] but has retreated to a noticeable extent. The retreat has not taken place because the leadership of the alliances has been gripped by fear as a result of remarks by commanders of the Pakistani or Iranian Armed Forces concerning military preparations. It took place because of the cessation of military operations between Iran and Iraq and the first changes in the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe, which projected them as being opposed to the policy of military pacts. These factors are of immense and positive importance. However, it cannot of course be ignored that, in the Persian Gulf region, U.S. and other Western warships continue patrolling. We cannot deny the reality of the existence of U.S. military naval bases in the vicinity.

But what is there to gain from military cooperation with Pakistan for the sake of combating these dangers? After all, the Pakistani militarists constitute one of the instruments of U.S. strategy in the region. The Pakistani ports have frequently been used by U.S. warships. The Pentagon has given the Islamabad echelons considerable military and (?economic) assistance. In such circumstances, military cooperation with Pakistan could be a trap for Iran. The warmongering Pakistani officials could drag Iran into their acts of (? military) adventurism. The call by the Pakistani leaders for more active participation in the so-called holy war against the present Afghanistan regime is a source of anxiety.

If there are signs of positive progress in Iran's stance, enabling the country to distance itself from the coalition forces which are carrying on an undeclared war against Afghanistan, Pakistan has not displayed any such change. In addition, with the departure of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the Pakistani militaristic circles' expansionist flights of fancy seem to have increased. The planners of that country's strategy are contemplating the imposition of a government in Afghanistan which will agree to a confederation of Pakistan and Afghanistan under Islamabad's leadership. The report by the director general of Pakistan's intelligence which fell into the hands of Afghan officials and was published in the newspaper KABUL TIMES is evidence of this fact. The authors of this report predict that the confederation will be able to (?obtain) Iran's (?support).

We are hopeful that Iran will refrain from falling into this war trap designed by Pakistan.

East Europe

Shishlin Comments on Hungarian Election Results

LD2703231590 Budapest MTI in English 1508 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, March 27 (MTI)—"I am convinced the outcome of the Hungarian elections was no surprise to the Soviet Union," Nikolay Shishlin, senior official of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, said in a telephone interview with MTI's Moscow correspondent.

Going on the partial results from the first round, Shishlin said they had expected the Hungarian Democratic Forum to receive more votes. The trend in political power relations had turned out to be less conservative than anticipated, he said.

Shishlin said the Soviet Union did not regard the Hungarian Democratic Forum as a right-wing, conservative force. It is viewed as a democratic organization which has its own ideas about shaping the future and seeks to renew Hungarian society through its own ways and means.

The Soviet politician said they were looking forward to the coalition talks after April 8 with great interest, since none of the parties is in a position to form a government of its own.

The Soviet Union considers the election of leaders the affair of the Hungarian people, and wishes to maintain friendly, mutually advantageous relations with Hungary in the future, too, Shishlin concluded.

Hungary's Antall Seeks Good Ties With USSR

PM2803154190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 90 First Edition p 3

[TASS correspondent A. Kuklin report: "Toward the Hungarian Election Results"]

[Excerpts] Budapest, 27 Mar—[Passage omitted] According to figures received based on the processing of almost 80 percent of the ballot papers, the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] received 24.5 percent of the votes, and the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ]—21.18 percent. [passage omitted]

For many the night after the elections was a sleepless one. It was spent by a significant number of Hungary's journalists and more than 1,500 reporters from abroad in going from the headquarters of one party to the headquarters of the other since the parties held press conferences every two hours. The nerve centers that night were the parliament building where the computer system for counting the votes was located, and also the international election press center.

A TASS correspondent visited the headquarters of certain parties that night.

Jozsef Antall, chairman of the MDF, stated that there would be no place for members of the old government—ministers, state secretaries and deputy ministers—in the government's new composition.

Touching on MDF policy regarding the Soviet Union, J. Antall stated that if his party becomes the ruling party, then he would strive to form good economic ties with the USSR. The MDF wants to maintain proper, good-neighborly relations with the Soviet Union, the politician stressed.

Article Profiles Parties in Hungarian Elections

90UI0428A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 12 Mar 90 p 3

[Article by S. Ivanov, TASS correspondent for RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, Budapest: "Pluralism Hungarian Style"]

[Text] The pre-election political picture in Hungary today confirms in a certain sense the well-known phrase, "However many people there are, that's how many opinions you've got!" New political parties and organizations keep springing up in the country like mushrooms following a rainfall. In spite of the fact that just three months have been devoted to their official registration, in accordance with the law on political parties adopted in the autumn of last year, today there are 52 political parties in Hungary.

The most prominent of these is the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP), whose numbers across the country today already exceed 50,000. Its membership consists chiefly, of representatives of the Hungarian intelligentsia. The MSZP party chairman is Rezso Nyers. Another large party in Hungary is the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party (MSZMP), today undergoing reform and numbering 82,000 members. It is headed by Gyula Thurmer. The third most prominent political organization is the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF). Headed by Jozsef Antall, it has more than 20,000 adherents. Nor can we forget the Alliance of Free Democrats (about 10,000 members) which, in spite of relatively small numbers, is today, along with the MDF, one of the most popular parties in the country.

Also officially functioning in the country today are organizations that have united several hundred to several thousand individuals within their ranks. These include such groups with relatively narrow interests and small composition as the Greens Party of Hungary, the Party of People of the East—Christian Democrats, the Social-Democratic Party of Gypsies of Hungary, and the Entrepreneurs Party.

Given the current situation in Hungary, however, the number of members these parties have gives absolutely no indication as to their popularity among the population. Thus, according to data from a recently conducted sociological study, 21.8 percent of people who have taken a position want to cast their vote for the Hungarian

Democratic Forum; 18.4 percent for the Alliance of Free Democrats; 16.3 percent for the Independent Smallholders Party (over 30,000 members); 10.8 percent for the Hungarian Socialist Party; 7.1 percent for the Alliance of Young Democrats (over 4,000 members); 4.6 percent for the Social-Democratic Party of Hungary; 3.7 percent for the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party; etc.

What are the most prestigious political parties in Hungary proposing to their electorate if they accede to power? The answer to this question can be found in the pre-election programs of these political forces.

The aim of the Hungarian Socialist Party is to build democratic socialism and effect the broadest possible inclusion of the Hungarian economy in world economic processes. The MSZP has declared that the country's economy cannot function without trade with the East European countries, but that these relations must be rebuilt on a new basis. The MSZP sees the future of Hungary in a Europe without blocs, safeguarded by interstate guarantees that would preclude any reciprocal threats.

The results of the sociological study show, however, that the MSZP lags significantly behind the Hungarian Democratic Forum in popularity. With chiefly intelligentsia united today in its ranks, the MDF is in favor of the so-called Hungarian path of development. It repudiates both the Eastern model, earlier foisted on the country, and copies of Western models. The MDF believes that, given close interaction with the Western countries, the introduction of new principles of cooperation with the peoples along the Danube also presents possibilities.

Also highly specific is the program being promoted by the Alliance of Free Democrats (SZDSZ), whose position becomes stronger every day. The SZDSZ insists on replacing the system, shifting the entire policy of the country to other bases, and the establishment of a market economy based solely on private ownership. It advocates a liberal policy, and in this regard is calling for more thorough public supervision of the process of reprivatization of state property.

The SZDSZ is affiliated with the Alliance of Young Democrats (FIDESZ), which has 4,000 members. Its program is also characterized by a striving to preclude entirely the possibility of preserving the former order.

The position of the party of Hungarian Communists, the MSZMP, in the pre-election struggle we see today is not all that reassuring. In spite of this, however, the party has its supporters. Entering the pre-election campaign, the MSZMP declared its intention to become the party of laborers and the working class not just in name. It will fight for stability in society, against racial and religious discrimination, against manipulation of public opinion, and for law and order. The MSZMP believes it is necessary to introduce a fair system of price determination for basic foodstuffs, to increase material incentives and support for producers. The Marxist party undergoing reform is striving to resurrect the true meaning of socialism. It is promoting foreign policy principles in support of international security and maintenance of the military balance. It insists upon reform in CEMA and repudiates a unilateral Western orientation.

Elections are scheduled for 25 March and the first stage of the pre-election campaign was already concluded a few days ago. On special certification forms, each voter had to personally indicate which party and which candidates he intended to vote for. As a result, 12 parties were selected as having the right to introduce candidates for inclusion on the nationwide, or republic, as it is still called, list for voting. All the main competitors are among them—the Alliance of Free Democrats, MDF, MSZP, MSZMP, Independent Smallholders Party, Social-Democratic Party of Hungary, and others.

Choices, choices... And what do the Hungarian voters themselves think about the possible situation to come? According to the results of the latest population poll, when asked whether people will have more confidence in the leadership after parliamentary elections, 54 percent of a thousand respondents answered positively; 34 percent expressed disagreement with this view. It is interesting that 42 percent of those polled stated that, regardless of which party emerged victorious in the elections, it would fail to fulfill its promises all the same.

In short, we see the most diverse opinions regarding the outcome of the upcoming elections. Not even authoritative experts will attempt to guess the results today, less than a month prior to the event. But all observers agree that 25 March will mark the determination not simply of the composition of a new parliament, but also of Hungary's historical destiny.

'Vandalism' Against Hungarian Monuments Deplored

PM2803115990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
28 Mar 90 Second Edition p 7

[Own correspondent V. Gerasimov dispatch: "'Dictatorship of Vandalism'? Worried Comments"]

[Text] Budapest, 27 Mar—First the monument was well and truly mocked. I do not want to describe how. Then it was covered with anticommunist inscriptions. The residents were indignant and protested. But this did not stop those determined to get their own way. One day they drove up a crane and dragged the statue off its pedestal. So there was no monument to V.I. Lenin in Debrecen.

The local council also joined the residents in protesting against this. "An act of vandalism"—that was what representatives of the Patriotic People's Front said. Well? The monument to the Hungarian Soviet republic was destroyed in retaliation.

The Debrecen office of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] demanded that the prosecutor's office institute proceedings against the "lynch mob" from the Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Independent

Smallholders Party. The leadership of these parties' offices announced that there was no point in doing that: They had not taken the decisions—rank-and-file party members allegedly had the initiative.

These "enterprising" people wanted to cover the monument to Bela Kun in Budapest with sheeting. But they were driven back (admittedly, not without a brawl) by a group of MSZMP members and representatives of other left-wing organizations. After issuing the local council with an "ultimatum," activists from the Alliance of Free Democrats and the Independent Smallholders Party dismantled the monument to V.I. Lenin in Csepel. With their traditional aggressiveness members of the Alliance of Young Democrats in Bekescsaba demanded that the bronze sculpture of Lenin be smelted down into... a bell. A whole ceremony to "bury communism" was organized there.

You cannot choose any other words apart from "dictatorship by vandalism," when you learn that the vandals want to smash a sculpture of Istvan Kiss, "the republic's crusader" on a wide avenue in the capital.

"The current actions to remove the monuments are unworthy of parties which proclaim themselves to be democratic," Gyula Thurmer, chairman of the MSZMP said.

All this is of course, Hungary's internal affair. Only I do not believe that it is in the interests of the Hungarian people, workers, and peasants to wipe out, efface, and bury everything associated with the long struggle against humiliation, injustice, "savage capitalism," fascism, and terror.

Concerns Broached at FRG's DKP Congress Noted

PM2703143190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 90 Second Edition p 6

[Own correspondent Ye. Grigoryev dispatch: "Time of Severe Winds. Comments on the 10th DKP Congress"]

[Text] Dortmund-Scharnhorst—Instead of children's voices the general education school at Scharnhorst—a working class suburb of Dortmund—was filled with different sounds for the last two days of the week. The 10th German Communist Party [DKP] (FRG) Congress was at work here. The unusual place for the action matched the situation in which the West German Communists and their organizations have found themselves.

Life itself has faced the DKP with the need to renew itself. Everyone recognized this truism in theory two years ago. However, its implementation has been long and agonizing. A stream of "renewalists," mainly young people, emerged. By no means all their notions and demands were unreasonable, and that is why people sought dialogue with them. However, they preferred ultimatums and confrontation. That was the atmosphere of the previous congress. The party's political activity was paralyzed.

Then the "fall revolution" erupted in the GDR. Since the defense of socialism on German soil was the be-all and end-all of DKP policy and propaganda, the drastic changes resulted in most serious upheaval for it. The crisis of trust in the leadership intensified. A mass exodus began. Approximately 40 percent of its members have already left the party ranks. Deprived of considerable material aid from Berlin, the DKP found itself on the brink of financial bankruptcy. Virtually the entire party apparatus was dismissed in a hurry. Hundreds of functionaries had no recourse but to register at the employment office. UNSERE ZEIT was transformed from a daily into a weekly. "Never in its history has the DKP experienced such a profound crisis. It is a question of a political, ideological, and organizational crisis," I quote the report delivered to the 10th DKP Congress.

However, there were also a considerable number of people who remained loyal to socialist ideals. That is why even when the question of whether the Communist Party should exist or not arose, it proved possible to hold a new congress and clearly—I would point out this main result straightaway—decide that the DKP is necessary and will exist and continue to fight for working people's interests.

Certainly, the "renewalists" left the party and scattered among numerous groups in the left-wing political spectrum. The spirit of confrontation certainly vanished. But that does not mean that the clash of views disappeared from the party and pluralism of opinion dried up.

The report linked the DKP's difficulties with the "crisis processes taking place within the international communist movement," the collapse of "real socialism," that is the administrative edict model, and other "objective factors." At the same time "subjective factors" were also cited.

One should not perhaps say that the 10th congress removed all questions on this score. But the desire to draw practical conclusions clearly fitted in with the delegates' sentiments and speeches. The adoption of the new statute serves as an example of this. It was described as a temporary statute and still has to be checked out in practice, but this document bears the stamp of resolute organizational renewal. Instead of a DKP chairman and deputy chairman, the DKP will henceforth be led by a new collective body of four party representatives. All four are young. Anne Fronweiler is a sociologist. Helga Rosenberg is an office worker. Both joined the party relatively recently—three or four years ago. Rolf Primer, on the other hand, is extremely experienced and has spent many years within the DKP leadership. Heinz Ster, who was in the past a mechanic and fitter and a seamen, was also recently a member of the party presidium. The congress also elected a 50-strong DKP Board.

A great deal of time was spent discussing the question of German unification. Of course, it is hard for many Communists who spent decades championing the "first socialist state on German soil" to mentally accept the prospect of German unification. The debate showed that the realistic approach had gained the upper hand. This notwithstanding, the Communist Party naturally rejects the right-wingers' course of anschluss of the GDR and advocates equality for the two states during the unification process.

The going is certainly tough for the Communists now. There are fewer and fewer antifascist veterans who experienced the concentration camps of the Third Reich. The generation of Communists who were acquainted with the jails and underground of Adenauer's time are quitting active work. Herbert Mies, the aged leader of the DKP, was unable to take part in the preparations for the congress and the congress itself—he was prevented by a heart attack. Although no one has exonerated the former leadership for the current crisis, the congress still gave the veterans a worthy send-off.

What next? Will West German Communists be able to restore their prestige and take their rightful place among this country's left-wing forces? The period of severe winds has still not passed. DKP representative H. Ster told journalists that the party will embark on renewal and look to the future. The congress did not settle all the questions but it generated well-founded hopes.

Soviet Embassy in Romania Holds News Conference

AU2803105090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1851 GMT 27 Mar 90

["Official News—News Conference at the Soviet Embassy"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 27/3/1990—Since the Romanian December revolution, the Soviet-Romanian relations have successfully developed in all domains, stated the ambassador of the Soviet Union to Bucharest, Y.M. Tyazhelnikov, during a news conference at the embassy. Referring to the evolution of bilateral economic exchanges, the ambassador specified that this year the USSR would additionally deliver to Romania one million tons of coal, 576 million kwh, 115 million cu.m. of natural gas, considerable quantities of steel and aluminium rolled goods, non-ferrous metal and other products in exchange of Romanian machinery and equipment, cement, fittings, and others. In point of value, the total volume of additional exchanges will amount to 180 million roubles. The head of the Soviet diplomatic mission also pointed to the intensified contacts and collaboration in culture just as in other spheres of mutual interest.

Soviet-Albanian Friendship Group Holds Roundtable

PM2903180890 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 90 Moscow Evening Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Information"]

[Text] The Soviet-Albanian Friendship Society held a "roundtable" in Moscow 23 March, on the theme "Albania today—politics, economics, and culture."

West Europe

Defense Minister Yazov Continues Visit to France

Visits Saumur Army School

LD2903183890 Moscow TASS in English 1870 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Paris March 29 TASS—Soviet Defence Minister Army General Dmitriy Yazov visited the practical armour school in Saumur today.

Founded in 1964 as a cavalry school, the Saumur school now trains officers for the French armour troops.

The Soviet delegation heard about the school's history and training methods. The guests attended a tank platoon test firing session. They also went to see the armour museum and the cavalry school, one of the most famous in France.

Interviewed During Visit

LD2903223090 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today Army General Yazov, the USSR minister of defense, continued his official visit to France. [video shows the Arc de Triomphe followed by footage of Yazov at the grave of the unknown soldier]

[Correspondent S. Iyezuitov] Yesterday, a festive ceremony took place at the Arc de Triomphe in the center of Paris. Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov laid a wreath at the grave of the unknown soldier. During the minute of silence he honored the memory of the servicemen of France who fell and died during the years of World War I. The minister of defense signed the book of honored visitors [video shows scene]. On the same day Comrade Yazov left for Toulon. The USSR minister of defense visited the Clemenceau aircraft carrier of the French naval forces, which was in the roadsteads. The ship was launched in 1961 but will be replaced in 1998 by the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier with an atomic power unit. [video shows helicopter arriving on board a ship and a military welcoming ceremony as Yazov arrives]

Comrade Yazov was welcomed by Rear Admiral Debray and Captain of the First Class (Soleriere). The army general familiarized himself with the ship's technical equipment, with the everyday life of the French naval servicemen, and with the aircraft based on board. [video shows Yazov touring the ship]

Comrade Yazov gave a short interview for the 'Vremya' program in Paris today, early this morning. [begin recording] [video shows Yazov being interviewed by the correspondent]

[Iyezuitov] Dmitriy Timofeyevich, your visit has practically come to an end. To what extent is it useful for the strengthening of relations between our countries and which issues among those discussed were of most interest?

[Yazov] It seems to me that meetings are always mutualy useful. It is all a matter of the fact that we get to know one another better as ministers, get to know the intentions, doctrines, forms, and methods for training troops better. This is to some degree useful. But apart from just those tasks which we were resolving in the military line, there were political contacts, a meeting with the prime minister where a wide range of issues were discussed. We were naturally also concerned with the problems of disarmament, the problems of talks, the problems of the unification of Germany. On many issues our points of view coincide. [end recording]

[Iyezuitov] Today talks took place between the defense ministers of the USSR and France. During the second half of the day the army general became acquainted with the school for armored troops practice in the town of Saumur. Tomorrow Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov will visit the air base in Rheims and then at the end of the visit will leave France.

France's Dumas To Attend Moscow Exhibition

LD2903162890 Moscow TASS in English 1454 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will pay a brief visit to Moscow on March 30 to attend the opening of the exhibition "French Diplomacy During the Revolution" mounted at the French Embassy, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman announced here today.

Dumas and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze plan to have a working meeting, described by the spokesman as "continuation of the steadily developing Soviet-French political dialogue".

Shakhnazarov Addresses Italian Parliamentarians

PM2603090690 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 90 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent N. Miroshnik report: "Both Realism and Fantasy"]

[Text] Rome, 21 Mar—"The development of the Soviet Constitution and the reform of the political system in the USSR"—this was the theme of a report delivered in front of a large group of Italian parliamentarians by G.Kh. Shakhnazarov, people's deputy of the USSR, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and president of the Soviet Association of Political Science, who was specially invited to Italy for this purpose.

After the talk he was asked many questions concerning the development of the process of democratization of political and social life in our country, the laws that have already been adopted and submitted for discussion, and their implementation in practice.

"Both in the report and in the subsequent discussion, the problem of the constitutional combination of the interests of the federal state with the interests of individual republics was touched on," V. Scotti, chairman of the Christian Democratic Party group in the Chamber of Deputies, said in conversation with PRAVDA's correspondent after the meeting. "I was also interested in the question of how the new USSR Constitution which is now being drafted will provide for strong local autonomy within the framework of a statewide federation. Above all, of course, with regard to the Baltic republics, the problems that have arisen there must be resolved by peaceful means, in the interests of European security.

"How to go about this specifically is naturally for you to decide. But from a purely theoretical point of view, so to speak, in my view the idea that has been heard here about a federal state, in which power belongs to the republics and is delegated by them to the center in the form of powers on specific questions—above all foreign policy and defense—may I think be feasible. Naturally after wide discussion within the USSR.

"What no one in Italy or in Europe wants is the development of national conflict in your country. This could only result in a slowing down of the processes taking place in the USSR that we are observing with great interest. Naturally we do not wish to interfere in your internal affairs, but we are of course worried by a possible deterioration in the situation, and we call on our Soviet friends to find a formula which will meet to the needs of the Baltic republics for autonomy, and at the same time keep them within the framework of internal state political solidarity."

Andreotti Receives Silayev-Led Delegation

PM2603114090 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting Held"]

[Text] Rome, 24 Mar—A meeting took place here between a Soviet Government delegation headed by I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

During the businesslike and constructive talk, in which N.A. Pugin, USSR minister of automotive and agricultural machine building, and N.M. Lunkov, USSR ambassador to Italy, also took part, the sides conducted a thorough exchange of opinions on the course of implementation of agreements, accords, and contracts in the economic sphere signed during M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Italy in 1989.

Kashlev Examines Republic, European Issues

LD2603210390 Lisbon International Service in Portuguese 1830 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The USSR is willing to accept self-determination for its republics under the constitutional laws once the legal proceedings for such a process has been established, Yuriy Kashlev said today in the Portugese capital.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister, who was speaking at the Universidade Lusiada, said the Soviet Constitution already recognizes this right but has not established the necessary steps for such a process which he considered to be complex. Kashlev, who attended a meeting of the Council of Europe in Lisbon on behalf of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze currently visiting several African countries, said the USSR has invested about (?90 million dollars) in Lithuania [words indistinct].

The Soviet deputy foreign minister stressed the implications and the prospects offered by what he called the new European architecture arising from the [word indistinct] in Eastern Europe and the reduction in tensions between the blocs led by the United States and the USSR [words indistinct] the polemics caused by German unification. Kashlev said the USSR agrees in principle to this unification as long as existing borders between neighbors are safeguarded and the political and military status of the new Germany is defined. If it belongs to NATO it would compromise the existing balance between the blocs.

CPSU Delegation Leaves for Cyprus 25 Mar

PM2603135390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Developing Ties"]

[Text] Yu.I. Zuyev, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, and T.V. Kurgan, senior official in the CPSU Central Committee International Department, left 25 March for Nicosia under the plan for ties between the CPSU and the Cypriot Restorative Party of the Working People (AKEL).

Swiss To Build Chernobyl Decontamination Plant

LD2903201790 Moscow TASS in English 1828 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] West Berlin March 29 TASS—A plant to decontaminate metal structures and machines will be built in the Chernobyl area under a contract signed here between the West German branch of the Swiss firm Recytec and the Soviet organisations Atomenergoexport and Pripyat. The plant, with a capacity to decontaminate up to five tonnes of radioactive metal a day, is to be commissioned by the year's end.

Swiss workers will assemble the equipment. The plant will use most up-to-date technologies, including complex chemical reactions, to decontaminate machine tools, cars, river vessels and railway wagons.

Latin America & Caribbean

Cuba 'More Than Determined' To Thwart TV Marti

PM3003124190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Kamorin dispatch under the "IZVESTIYA Correspondents Comment" rubric: "Cuba-United States: The Antenna War: Round One"]

[Excerpts] Havana—IZVESTIYA has already reported that the United States tested TV-Marti—a subsidiary television channel of VOA, designed to broadcast to Cuba—on Monday night. Everything indicates that at present this involves a series of technical tests intended to prove the U.S. ability to put a stable signal onto Cuban viewers' screens despite Cuban opposition. The test was mutual, since Cuban jamming devices aimed at TV Marti were activated the same night to suppress the signal on channel 13. [passage omitted]

So an "antenna war" has begun in the Caribbean. Speaking on television, Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the General Staff of the Cuban Armed Forces, stressed that the republic is not only able to jam TV Marti today but also to create radio and television interference in the continental United States. Incidentally, last Friday, obviously by way of a "preemptive strike," Cuba transmitted Fidel Castro's press conference, which could be heard over almost half of the United States "over" local medium-wave radio station broadcasts. Ulises Rosales del Toro also pointed out that the "antenna war" could create serious difficulties for navigation and for air safety in the U.S. southern states.

What will be the result of the conflict? The United States is obviously expecting a repetition of the "Radio Marti" incident. However, my impressions indicate that the Cuban side is more than determined. The second option is that the crisis will escalate to such an extent that its consequences will make people forget about the prime cause. A statement circulated this week by Cuba's mass media insistently puts forward the idea that "aggression on the air" could act as a prelude to direct U.S. military intervention against Cuba.

Levchenko Comments on TV Marti Broadcasts

PY2903153090 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Leonid Levchenko commentary]

[Text] Our listeners undoubtedly know that the United States has started to broadcast television programs against Cuba in a test period which is expected to last three months.

After that time the U.S. Administration will request funds from the U.S. Congress to run the station for two years. The Cuban Government has notified the UN Security Council about Washington's ideological action and called on the international community to take measures to stop the radio-electronic aggression against Cuba and to prevent a deterioration of the situation. Let's listen to a commentary by our commentator Leonid Levchenko:

History has seen many methods of aggression. Now we are facing a radio-electronic aggression against a sovereign state. Cuba has again become the victim of a U.S. foreign policy that refuses to recognize the right of the Cuban people to choose their own method of development. Socialism has strengthened its roots in Cuba whether the Americans like it or not, and no outsider has the right to tell the people of this island how to run their lives.

The Cubans were able to successfully repel the attacks organized by the U.S. Government after the revolution, and now the ideological television attack has also been repelled. Ten minutes after the U.S. transmission began, Cuban services interfered with the transmission. A declaration released in Havana said that the necessary measures had been taken to defend national sovereignty.

But there is something else: Cuban officials believe that the television transmission is nothing but a maneuver set up by Washington as a pretext for an armed attack. This has forced Cubans to strengthen their defensive potential by investing resources needed for important economic projects. Cubans have been forced to make these sacrifices to preserve their honor and independence.

The United States, with its television broadcasts against Cuba, has knowingly violated international rules that forbid the transmission of television signals on frequencies used by radio and television stations of other countries. In this case, the signal was sent on the frequency belonging to Cuban television channel 13. This could unleash a media war with unpredictable and unwanted consequences for other countries.

This is why the U.S. television aggression against Cuba has been met with negative reactions throughout the world. It was also condemned by those attending the eighth meeting of the executive committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Broadcasting Union, which is being held in Caracas.

The British BBC television channel said that the U.S. television aggression is a bad deal that will bring no success to those who want to oust the Cuban Government.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry official Yuriy Pavlov deplored the initiation of Television Marti broadcasts from U.S. territory. In statements to PRENSA LATINA, Pavlov said that Washington's action has caused even further tension in U.S.-Cuban relations. He also noted that international coexistence calls for an exchange of information through methods quite different from those used by Television Marti.

Foreign Ministry Makes Statement on Nicaragua

LD2903183190 Moscow TASS in English 1817 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—"The Soviet Union is keeping a close eye on preparations for the next meeting of the five central American presidents, due to be held in Nicaragua's capital soon," a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement says.

"The meeting will be held at a crucial time in the region. The general elections in Nicaragua and the forthcoming transfer of power in that country have created favourable prerequisites to overcome the almost ten year-old crisis in Central America."

"It would be a serious mistake to miss this chance. The Sandinistas, who invariably favour a peaceful and political solution of the conflict and who have a substantial contribution to attainment of this goal seem to understand the full significance of the moment. President-elect Violetta Chamorro and her supporters also seem to appreciate the full range of possibilities that have opened up, as do many of the contras leaders."

"An illustration of this mutual understanding is the recent accord on disarmament and demobilisation of Nicaraguan armed opposition formations, stationed in Honduras".

"But the agreement says nothing about the disarmament of contras in Nicaragua. Reports about the penetration of contras en masse into Nicaraguan territory are giving rise to concern".

"The USSR believes that a comprehensive solution of the contras problem will remove one of the major factors of regional tension and enable the Central Americans to attend to other aspects of settlement, including the elaboration of measures to normalise the situation in El Salvador."

"Nicaragua's positive experience in carrying out measures within the framework of a national reconciliation policy could, in many respects, be used in other countries of the region, including in El Salvador. Nicaragua's most valuable experience is that all political parties and organisations display a sense of responsibility for the country's future and understand the need to renounce force when searching for ways to overcome existing differences."

"On the other hand, one must note the positive role of international controlling mechanisms and the united nations secretary-general in the negotiation process and implementation of accords. We intend to continue to render necesary assistance to these efforts," the statement stresses.

Nicaragua's Ortega Calls on Contras To Disarm

LD2303133490 Moscow TASS in English 1247 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Managua March 23 TASS—Nicaraguan contras' safety and liberty have been guaranteed by the Nicaraguan Government after their return home. Thousands of counter-revolutionaries who voluntarily laid down arms have taken advantage of these guarantees, Nicaragua's outgoing president Daniel Ortega told reporters on Thursday.

He was speaking after meeting Cardinal Miguel Obando-y-Bravo, chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission.

"Efforts are being taken in Nicaragua to end the war by April 25, when the new president takes office," Ortega said.

"For their part, Nicaraguans who were involved in counter-revolutionary activities should act in the way befitting citizens of their country—they should lay down their arms and return to peaceful work in their homeland."

Ortega noted that the early disbandment of the contras was also favoured by the Opposition National Alliance, which won the recent general elections, and the U.S. Administration.

The president said the heads of five Central American countries were planning to meet in Managua on April 1 and 2.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo told reporters he will talk about the release of all people abducted by counter-revolutionaries at talks with contra leaders in Tegucigalpa on Friday. The talks will centre on the demobilisation of contra armed groups.

He expressed hope for positive results from the talks, in which Antonio Lacayo, personal representative of Nicaraguan President-Elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, will take part.

According to reports from Honduras, Honduran President Leonardo Callejas on Thursday called for the disarmament and demobilisation of Nicaraguan contras who have settled in his country.

He described the contra issue as one of Honduras' most serious problems and said it must be resolved by repatriating members of the "Nicaraguan Resistance" to Nicaragua.

Callejas said the end of the military conflict in Nicaragua has left contras no other choice but to leave Honduras.

Basis of Trade With Nicaragua Examined

90UI0442A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 11, 14 Mar 90 p 9

[Article by Igor Ivanov: "Money Down the Drain?"]

[Text] It is the somewhat common view that the Soviet Union has long been in a gloomy streak of bad luck. The country is plagued by natural disasters, catastrophic accidents, interethnic conflicts, and flashes of separatist moods. From several quarters we hear even the revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe numbered among our fatal failures. It cannot be ruled out that they will add the unexpected opposition victory in the Nicaraguan elections to this list.

I categorically object. On the contrary, it seems to me we have all really had good luck—by several hundred millions of rubles, according to the most modest estimates, which a certain keen efficiency on the part of our foreign economic departments will enable us to use to our advantage, investing it in something which should deliver income more tangible than political dividends.

How other than fortunate can you consider the circumstance that the elections in Nicaragua were held this year and not later? USSR obligations expire in 1990 for deliveries resulting from credits extended Nicaragua. Trading in conformance with principles of international solidarity, and not the laws of mutual benefit, the Soviet Union last year exported a variety of products to Nicaragua valued at approximately R180 million, and in exchange received just 200,000 worth. Another year or two of such trading and Nicaragua's debt to Soviet creditors would cross the billion mark. And that is when you would really see money down the drain. Having joined the club of billionaire-debtors, the small country could boldly incur any debts—it wouldn't matter, they just would not pay them off.

We were really in luck by virtue of the fact that the Nicaraguan elections were conducted honestly. The results were acknowledged to be lawful not just in Nicaragua itself, but also abroad. And this means the United States will have to lift its trade and economic sanctions, thereby opening up the way to reviving the Nicaraguan economy, ravaged by many years of civil war. This would be quite apropos insofar as Nicaragua is clearly not presently capable of paying or trading—it has neither money nor goods in sufficient quantity.

New Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro managed to declare that she is relying on continued relations with the USSR, and she stressed the importance of Soviet humanitarian aid to her country.

Beautiful words! And use of the term "humanitarian aid" immediately puts everything in its place because it is a sacred and noble deed to assist victims of epidemics, flooding, earthquakes, and other catastrophes. We have come to find out on our own just how necessary such assistance is. But trade must be mutually beneficial. Sugar, meat, coffee, cotton—these have always been exported by Nicaragua. And then there are the proposals developed with Soviet experts for prospective joint gold mining... If the prices are right, why don't we strike a bargain?

Nicaraguan rum is still being delivered to Moscow stores. If one is able to buy it, he will find an appropriate reason for a toast—to good luck! May we continue to have good fortune and not be forced to write off our generous credits.

Yuriy Pavlov Queried on Latin American Relations

Part One

PY2903141390 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 21 Mar 90

[First part of three-part interview with Yuriy Pavlov, chief of the First Latin American Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, by Radio Moscow reporter Gaston Vargas; recorded—date and place not given]

[Text] [Vargas] President Mikhail Gorbachev, in his first speech after being sworn-in as president by the Congress of Soviet Deputies, said that Latin America is becoming more important in Soviet foreign relations. Gorbachev also said that there are possibilities to strengthen the positive aspects of international links, that is, direct Soviet diplomatic relations with Latin America. How will this guideline, which has been reiterated by President Gorbachev, be utilized by the Soviet Foreign Ministry?

[Pavlov] First of all, President Gorbachev's remarks do not refer only to the future, but also to the present. This is already being realized, because Latin America is becoming more important to our foreign policy in the search for a more stable and secure world [words indistinct] the threat of nuclear war by using peaceful means, and negotiations [words indistinct] in regional conflicts. In Latin America, for example, we can mention our cooperation [words indistinct] of Latin America, for the peaceful solution to the Central American conflict. We have provided our cooperation since the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group were created. We also cooperated with the presidents of the Central American countries. Although we do not have diplomatic relations with some of those countries, like Guatemala, we maintain regular contact to help solve conflicts in that zone.

[Vargas] Regarding Central America, a declaration by the Nicaraguan president-elect about her position regarding [words indistinct] Soviet Union was recently released. What is the Soviet position regarding the newly elected government in Nicaragua?

[Pavlov] The government change in Managua does not represent any change in our relations with Nicaragua because we have always [words indistinct] the development of bilateral relations on the basis of equality and common interests with all countries, without considering the government's political or ideological position. This is why, as President-elect Chamorro said, the newly elected Nicaraguan Government plans to have good relations with the Soviet Union. We share this position and this is why we plan to have good, friendly relations, and wide cooperation in the economic and cultural fields with Nicaragua.

[Vargas] A protocol for high level political talks between the Costa Rican and Soviet Governments has also been signed.

[Pavlov] Talking about Costa Rica, our political talks have become a tradition, some are at the ministerial levels, and others at the working level. But [words indistinct] international bilateral issues. The Soviets and the U.S. [words indistinct] and the protocol signed by our ambassador in San Jose [words indistinct]. We signed this protocol to make our yearly contact formal. Foreign Minister Shevardnadze said during his visit to Managua last October, that we are ready to establish and develop diplomatic relations with all the countries of Central America [words indistinct] Honduras, and El Salvador [words indistinct], and we see no obstacle to this in the future. Of course it will not only depend on our desire, but also on the need of those countries. [words indistinct] the Latin American countries. And talking about the countries with which we do not maintain diplomatic relations, like Paraguay for example, [words indistinct] the contact between General Rodriguez and the representatives [words indistinct] in Chile shows that we already have contacts. Therefore, I believe that it is only a matter of time for the establishment of normal relations with Paraguay.

Part Two

PY2903144390 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Second part of three-part interview with Yuriy Pavlov, chief of the First Latin American Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, by Radio Moscow reporter Gaston Vargas; recorded—date and place not given]

[Text] [Vargas] In many Latin American countries Soviet foreign policy has been identified in the past, and still continues to be identified in some, [words indistinct] as Soviet expansionism, as a way to influence Latin American politics. The new approach, the new mentality of Soviet foreign policy seems to deny this definition, this description.

[Pavlov] Soviet foreign policy has been accused in those terms. The accusers were thinking, perhaps not as far back as the last century but at least since the 40's and 50's [words indistinct], that the Soviet Union's main enemy was the United States, the head of imperialism; that the Soviet Union was seeking to influence Third World countries to weaken imperialism. In that perspective it was an implacable struggle between the two systems. The meaning of our new political thought conveys to the world the need for cooperation among all countries of the world, whatever their political or ideological beliefs or government system, because there is no other choice. Using a military term, we cannot allow the destiny of the world to be resolved on a battlefield because it would be suicide for the entire world.

[Vargas] What are the current Soviet relations and what are its prospects for future relations, with the OAS, the Andean Group, SELA [Latin American Economic System], and other Latin American organizations?

[Pavlov] We have expressed our desire to contact the economic or political regional and subregional organizations. A few weeks ago our foreign minister told the international press that we are thinking of having regular contact with the OAS because this organization has drastically changed its position. In the 40's and 50's many people thought of the OAS as an instrument of U.S. politics. This is no longer the situation. We see that this organization is playing a positive role in solving the Central American conflict, and in the solution of other problems which are important for Latin America. We see that a close cooperation with the OAS, SELA, and other regional organizations will be very useful.

[Vargas] Cuba is also in Latin America. What are the nature and prospects of Soviet-Cuban relations considering that Cuba is also a socialist country.

[Pavlov] We have special relations with Cuba because it is a socialist country. We have good relations in the [words indistinct] cultural, and political fields [words indistinct] close cooperation in the international field, and because of history [words indistinct] of economic reasons [words indistinct]. Cuba still needs our cooperation in the economic field to neutralize, if not completely at least partially, the negative effects of the economic blockade. [words indistinct] has what we have [words indistinct] because we import the little we need such as sugar, citrus, (?nickel), and other products.

[Vargas] Soviet foreign relations, which are also undergoing changes in the Soviet Union, are not the exclusive concern of the Foreign Ministry. There is a Foreign Relations Committee in the Supreme Soviet where foreign relations problems are also discussed [words indistinct], and in the press, and other sectors. There are people who proposed changes, for example in the economic policy toward Cuba, and toward other countries of the Third World, of developing countries. They want changes such as stopping special aid, establishing normal trade relations with these countries. What is the Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Government's position in this regard?

[Pavlov] Of course there are now new elements in the preparation of our foreign policy, and the Supreme Soviet is playing a more active role in this regard, and also because our relations [words indistinct]. The fact is that we are openly discussing all the problems of our society in the press, including our foreign policy. Many times the press makes comments which do not coincide or do not go along with our official policy. Regarding our relations with friendly countries which need our aid, we chose the path [words indistinct] by the deputies of the Supreme Soviet who are the ones who determine our foreign policy, that we must not forget our moral responsibilities [words indistinct], our friends, that we cannot base our relations only on commercial interest.

Part Three

PY2903163090 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 23 Mar 90

["Third and final" part of three-part interview with Yuriy Pavlov, chief of the First Latin American Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, by Radio Moscow reporter Gaston Vargas; recorded—date and place not given]

[Text] Two new aspects of Soviet foreign policy toward Latin America will be discussed in this third and final part of our interview with Yuriy Pavlov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Latin American Department. The Soviet diplomat answers questions on the economic problems of Latin American countries and the prospects for relations with Chile, a country with which diplomatic relations were resumed on 11 March, when Christian Democratic lawyer Patricio Aylwin was inaugurated.

[Begin recording] [Vargas] One of the economic problems for Latin American countries, for developing countries in general, is the foreign debt, the unbalanced international trade. President Gorbachev, when he was secretary general, proposed an economic security plan at the 27th congress. Is that plan still valid? How will it be reconciled with the new international policy that the Soviet Union is now following?

[Pavlov] We share the opinion of Latin American countries on the need for and inevitability of a substantial change to modernize the character and nature of economic relations between developed and developing countries. We believe in the need to create a new world economic order. But, at the same time, we understand that this order can only be established through negotiations and an increased understanding by the developed nations that it is in their own interest to change the nature of those relations.

One cannot impose these changes by force or vote. There is now more understanding, even in the United States and West Europe, that those changes will suit the interests of everyone; that things must be changed, and more advantages given. The character of these relations must be changed to give developing countries more possibilities on the foreign debt, which is unpayable. [end recording]

This is Moscow International Radio broadcasting to Latin America an interview by our colleague Gaston Vargas with Yuriy Pavlov, head of the Latin American Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

[Begin recording] [Vargas] One of the most impressive processes of reestablishing diplomatic, consular, economic, and cultural relations in recent times might be the resumption of relations with Chile. This event took place on the same day that new President Patricio Aylwin assumed office. What does this event mean to the Soviet Union? What are the prospects for diplomatic relations with Chile?

[Pavlov] We believe the prospects for developing our relations are very good. The fact that we have maintained very broad relations in the past, based on mutual advantage and not political ideology, should help. It should not matter that, for reasons beyond our control, that process was suspended for many years. Now that possibilities have been created for maintaining diplomatic, consular, and other relations, we hope that they will improve in the future.

Even before diplomatic relations have been resumed we have renewed contacts in civil aviation. This shows that the Chileans are also interested. Since Chile is once again a country ruled by a democratic regime which is not isolated internationally, prospects for broad cooperation in the foreign policy area are good. Judging by statements by the Chilean president, we have a common goal in the search for peace and a safer and more just world for everyone. [end recording]

The Soviet Union and Latin America are examples of relations in the process of developing. Yuriy Pavlov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Latin American Department, has come to the studios of Radio Moscow International for this program to Latin America.

Supreme Soviet Session

Biryukova Answers Deputies' Questions 28 Mar

LD2903122690 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1721 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Answers to written questions given by Aleksandra Pavlovna Biryukova, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, at the 28 March session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, including remarks by session chairman Lukyanov and Deputy Aleksandra Andreyeva—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed People's Deputies: The government has received numerous questions connected with saturating the market with consumer goods, and in particular with specific groups of consumer goods. For this reason, I will say a few words in general. On the whole, over the last two months the plan for the production of consumer goods was fulfilled by 103 percent, including 103 percent for food goods and 102 percent for nonfood goods. Compared with the corresponding period last year, production rose by 6.3 percent on the whole, 2.5 percent for food goods and 107.5 percent for nonfood goods. [figures as heard] But meanwhile the control figures, which were reduced, and the plans adopted by the enterprises themselves were underfulfilled by R5.2 billion. Consumer goods worth R9 billion more than in the corresponding period of last year were supplied to the market. Of these, supplies to the market of nonfood goods rose by 13 percent, those of food only by three percent.

What are the main reasons for enterprises' plans being underfulfilled by such an amount? The main reason is the unstable situation in the country—meetings, demonstrations, and strikes. As a result, in two months of this year alone, there were losses of 9 million man-days in working time, while in the whole of 1989, seven million man-days were lost. This is illustrated by the following example: Concerning textiles, the production plans were underfulfilled by 36 million square metres. Of these, the Transcaucasian republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia account for 28 million square meters. Concerning footwear, the production plan was underfulfilled by 2.4 million pairs, of which the Transcaucasian republics account for 2.9 million [figure as heard] pairs. There is a fall in delivery discipline, production discipline, and contract discipline, and there is a large outflow of workers from state enterprises. Suffice it to say that in the Russian Federation, there were 430,000 seamstresses in light and local industry eneterprises. Over the past year alone, more than 100,000 have gone into the cooperatives; that is, one quarter. For that reason we are now undertaking steps to give these enterprises—without restricting their wages funds—an opportunity to attract engineering and technical workers and general workers of the enterprises to work overtime on evening shifts and on Saturdays, with pay conditions like those of cooperatives. Measures are being adopted in order to ensure the supplies of all the necessary component parts.

The next question: When will there be unrestricted sales of soap and detergents? Several notes have come in from deputies on this question. What measures has the government taken on detergents? First of all, for synthetic detergenets, the market stocks last year were 1,458 million tonnes. This year, market stocks have increased by 14.5 percent, and amount to 1.670 million tonnes, which is 1.8 times as much detergent as we were selling in 1989. We hope that if the production plan is fulfilled—and the production plan has increased sharply, from 1.4 million tonnes to 1.7 million tons—the situation concerning detergents should be made normal. At present, the daily sales of detergents in many oblasts of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], and in Moscow and Leningrad have approximately halved. The remaining detergents stocks are growing, and to date, for the union as a whole, they amount to 50 days, although in a number of regions—and in particular, a deputy just came up to me—in Kirov Oblast, in the Bashkir Autonomous Republic, and in a number of other oblasts, for some reason there is still not enough detergents today in order to lift. [sentence as heard] We have given instructions to the all-union Ministry of Trade and the RSFSR Ministry that they should examine the proper, more even distribution of detergents around the regions. The situation is more or less the same with toilet soap. The situation emerging concerning household soap is worse. We cannot buy household soap, the union enterprises are not producing it, and the situation concerning household soap today depends entirely upon how the local bodies of Soviet power organize the work of enterprises to produce household soap locally. In all oblasts where this has been done, there is sufficient quantities of household soap.

We have not cut down the purchases of detergents for 1990, but have placed them at approximately last year's level, although our own production is increasing. We have done this with one aim—to bring the trade stocks of detergents to a minimum of 90 days in order never again to allow such disruptions as there were last year.

The next question, from People's Deputy Ganchev: What measures have been adopted to prevent cheap goods from being squeezed out? Comrades, I have to say that the squeezing out of cheap goods began in 1988, when enterprises of light and local industry and others producing consumer goods were transferred to the new economic mechanism. Neither then nor now have we found in the new economic mechanism a lever that would give enterprises an economic interest to produce equally both expensive goods and cheap goods. For that reason, as early as the end of 1988, the government adopted two decisions, on 4 October and on 18 December, on measures to encourage the production of goods in the children's range and on certain measures to encourage the production of goods for the elderly, socially low prices. These decisions increased the subsidies for enterprises for increasing production of children's ranges, and the subsidies for the production of goods for elderly people at socially low prices were increased or established. Today these subsidies, for the children's ranges alone, amount to R4 billion. In addition to this, all the profits that are gained as a result of growth of goods at socially low prices and in the children's ranges remain at the disposal of the enterprises. This provided the opportunity, even last year, to increase considerably the rates of growth of production of goods for children. These rates are from seven to 25 percent, and for goods at socially low prices, these rates amount to 1.4, 1.8 and for certain goods even 4.6 times. You may, naturally, say to me: But the goods are not there. Indeed, there is not enough of them, although now industry, in production of knitwear, for example, is producing 60 percent of goods for children, speaking in terms of goods as a proportion of total volume. The percentage is somewhat lower for goods for the elderly, and so here the question is one of us increasing as a whole the consumer goods and creating the capacities for their production, and continuing to seek the economic mechanisms, because the administrative measures are not working. The Law on the Socialist Enterprise does not promote an increase in production of cheap goods, either. The government is presently working on this, and in particular, we have received suggestions from various public organizations that, for example, children's goods and goods for the elderly should be produced at prices that would ensure the necessary profitability for the enterprises, and all these subsidies would be handed over to the specific families for specific children. A working group from the government economic organs is working on this at present, and we will report to you later on this matter.

People's Deputy Gubarev asks: How is the market for timber and construction materials being satisfied? I have to tell you, comrades, that recently the government has been undertaking large measures in order, first and foremost, to fully satisfy the market for timber and construction materials. For this year, the stock of all construction materials have been allocated, as written in a government decision, R13 billion. To date, contacts have been concluded only up to R10 billion. What about this? Well the rates of growth in 1990 for timber and construction materials are increasing by 50 percent compared with 1989. For works-manufactured wooden houses the rate is 40 percent, for garden sheds it is 50 percent, for flooring blocks 90 percent, for plumbing ceramics 40 percent, and so on. For some goods, these rates are lower. But I have to say plainly, comrades, we are not happy with the rate. The rate is high, but the people's requirements are even greater, and if we have a look at how we are satisfying the people's demand, the demand is being 65 percent, 75 percent, or at most 83 percent satisfied. So very much work lies ahead in this area, and primarily this great deal of work means increasing production volumes, and organizing production of construction materials at sites which are becoming available. The government has freed enterprises producing building materials from the tax on growth of wages, in connection with increases in produciton. Ministries and departments have been ordered, and the government has instructed Gossnab and Gosplan to examine all these questions once again, and has issued the order that materials worth R2.4 billion be sought out at industrial enterprises where they are left over, surplus stock, and over the norm, and that these products be taken and sold to the population.

The next question is from the People's Deputy Ganchev: A letter has been sent to Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov from my electors, proposing that the regulated sale of food and nonfood consumer goods to the population, invalids excepted, be abolished. Comrades, I have to say that this question should have been addressed not to the union government, but to local soviets of people's deputies. The union government is also in favor of unregulated sales, so as to avoid introducing a rationing system, or introducting a passport system, and eliminating mobile trade [vyyezdnaya torgovlya]. But the local soviets categorically oppose this. This is their prerogative. And it is not because local soviets do not want to do so themselves, but because they are fulfilling the will of labor collectives. [passage omitted] Many local soviets are now going over to a system whereby mobile trade is eliminated, but preliminary orders are taken at various labor collectives with sales according to orders. The main task here is evidently that we must quickly boost production of consumer goods and services on the one hand, and on the other hand we must halt this accumulation of income which is totally out of step with the growth in production volume. Over two months, money paid out has increased by 16 percent, while the volume of consumer goods production has risen by only 7.5. percent; the volume of production in the country as a whole has even fallen, I think, by one percent.

People's Deputy Mironova asks: What is the situation regarding an increase in the allocation of small cars for sale and private use? Similar questions are asked by a number of other deputies. Well, the state of affairs in meeting demand for small cars for private use is, of course, very, very serious and very difficult. The fact is that since we commissioned KamAZ [Kama truck plant] more than 15 years ago, we have not put a single factory or facility for car production into operation. The maximum capacity and the plan for production last year for all small cars was 1.3 million. In fact, there was an 83,000-car shortfall in plan fulfillment, because the works were going over to new vehicles, which affected first and foremost the AZLK [Lenin Komsomol car plant] in Moscow. The production plan established for this year is 1,281 million vehicles. These vehicles go not only for sale to the population, but also for other purposes. First, we have increased allocation of cars to health services, and first and foremost for village and settlement soviets. The health service allocation has increased by 7.5 percent. We have increased allocation of cars to the Ministry of Internal Affairs so as to equip our militia in the fight against crime. You know that our militia finds itself horseless, while all the criminals have cars. So we have increased their allocation by 3.7 times. We have allowed for an increase in gratis distribution of cars for the disabled. There were 31,000, and this year the figure will be 34,000. We have reduced exports by 20,000 so as to increase market stocks. Thus the market stock being formed is 760,900 cars. [passage omitted]

The next question is from USSR People's Deputy Gristenko, chairman of a commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on the motivation for the government's adoption of a decision on organization of auction and commercial trade. I would like to remind you, comrades, that this was not just a motivation; there were instructions. The commisions and committees of the USSR Supreme Soviet, examining the plan and budget for 1990, recommended in their findings, and I quote, that the USSR Council of Ministers—and the USSR Supreme Soviet later instructed the government through a resolution—I quote, to use for financing of extra and urgent social needs sources such as the proceeds from sales to the population of goods in high demand and luxury items at commercial prices, and also from broad auction sales of consumer goods in short supply, i.e., minitractors, small agricultural equipment, and other goods. [passage omitted] According to preliminary figures, an estimate, we reckon that this year we will obtain R800 million to R1 billion from auction sales of the eight or nine categories I have mentioned. [passage omitted]

Next, how are the funds allocated for purchase of goods abroad being used? The question is from Cormade Magomedov; he gives a figure of R11 billion as having been allocated to fill the market with nonfood goods. I must say, comrades, that it is not R11 billion, but R1 billion that has been allocated for purchase of nonfood goods. In connection with the fact that we have a difficult situation with tea, coffee, and dried milk baby foods, at the suggestion of the Bureau for Social Development, the Presidium gave its accord to purchases costing R270 million for dried milk baby foods, tea, and natural and instant coffee from this account. Consumer goods worth R830 million in foreign currency are being brought. What goods are these? They are synthetic detergents, soap, toothpaste, razor blades, cassettes, batteries, and so on. I will not list them. They are everyday goods. To date, such goods worth 670... [changes thought] such goods have been bought almost fully, and R177 million remains, and they will be purchased. [Sentence as received] [passage omitted]

The next question is from Dagmara Sergeyevna Mironova: Why are issues of the technical reequipping of the light and textile industry being resolved only slowly? Dear Dagmara Sergeyevna, I shall say that of course we would like them to be resolved much more quickly. Considerably more capital investment is already being allocated in the current five-year period than is provided for in the five-year plan. But unfortunately these capital investments are not being taken up by many republics. At the same time, I must say that we do not have the equipment to reequip light industry enterprises very quickly. For that reason, Igor Sergeyevich Belousov has already replied there about the measures that are being adopted to increase the production of equipment for light industry at defense complex enterprises. He told you about the credits as well, the credits worth R1 billion that were allocated in 1988 for the purchase of equipment. Some of the equipment is arriving this year, and this year, on account of this, output worth an extra R6.7 billion will be produced. Next year, when all the equipment will have arrived, output worth an extra R10.3 billion will be produced. For the next five-year plan we plan to double the capital investment in light industry, and to increase this work. But first and foremost this has to be done by the councils of ministers of union republics and local bodies, which in 1989 assumed jurisdiction for light industry.

[passage omitted] [Lukyanov] Deputy Andreyeva, please

[Andreyeva] Dear Aleksandra Pavlovna! This is my question to you: In connection with the deeper intensification of economic reform—and this is at an accelerated rate and by radical methods, as the president of the country said yesterday—is the government and are you personally prepared to protect less well-off groups of the population and provide stable support for precisely this section of our people for a standard of living which is tolerable according to social yardsticks and dignified by moral ones? If so, please name at least two or three such measures. If not, please tell us your opinion about the need for urgent drafting of an integrated prmation system, and so on, which will have a most negative influence precisely on these strata.

[Lukyanov] What a genius Irina Aleksandrovna is! She has asked a question that we could debate for two hours!

[Andreyeva] I ask only for a yes or a no aogram of government measures for social security of the population at the poverty level in the period of the economic reform being carried out, including anti-inflation measures, among them reorganization of the financial system, changes to the price fornswer. If yes, then for just two or three measures of those prepared. I do not require an extensive answer, because, excuse me, the preceding answers to questions have shown that there is no hope of that.

[Biryukova] I have been answering specific questions that were asked of me. On behalf of myself and on behalf of the government, my reply is that the government says yes, it is in favor of measures which as a result of the transition to a market-controlled economy would be drafted for social security. There are the relevant instructions from the government to economic bodies, and to the state planning committee, the Ministry of Finance, the State Committee on Prices, and the Committee on Labor and Social Issues, which are engaged in this program. This work is headed by Comrade Abalkin. We shall be obliged to do this. We cannot permit a reduction in living standards for the sector which already has a low living standard.

[Andreyeva] You know, the preceding answers have evoked immense dissatisfaction because they have been a statistical directory. In connection with the last answer, I find myself mistrusting not Comrade Abalkin, but Comrade Biryukova in connection with what she has just said. Of just over 400,000 seamstresses, 100,000 have gone to cooperatives. What measures is the government undertaking now, when since 1 January the Law on Leasing has been introduced, the Law on Ownership has been adopted, these measures have been drafted. What measures have been adopted so that at clothing enterprises and in the services sphere, and so on, they should go over to leasing, go over to buy-outs, to auctioning, and so on. What has been done? Why are people leaving?

[Lukyanov] A brief answer, please. But just one minute, Aleksandra Pavlovna, excuse me. Comrade deputies, taking part in today's dialogue between the Supreme Soviet and the government is a delegation from the United States headed by Senator Edward Kennedy. May I welcome him! [applause] [Kennedy shown in gallery, stands and waves] Good, cary on, Aleksandra Pavlovna.

[Biryukova] Irina Aleksandrovna, I think you have asked this question especially so as to emphasize your attitude to me. I think that you know very well why these seamstresses are leaving. It is because the conditions of work in the clothing enterprises and the working conditions in cooperatives are different. A seamstress working in a clothing enterprise receives R186 producing five pairs of trousers per shift, while a seamstress working in a cooperative recieves R500 producing two pairs of trousers per shift. This is a result of the taxation on state enterprises is in a different condition from the taxation in cooperatives. [passage omitted] If we provide equally profitable conditions for enterprises and for cooperatives, then our seamstresses, our textile workers, will not run off to other spheres. [passage omitted]

Deputy Golik Discusses Emergency Situations

LD2903151390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1957 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Speech by Deputy Golik, Chairman of the Commission for Law and Order and Combatting Crime, at the USSR Supreme Soviet session on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed colleagues; you and I are only just building up experience of examining and adopting laws in separate chambers, so to be honest I do not have a very fine sense of how to construct my report correctly. Therefore, if you will permit me, I will assume that all of you first attentively studied the bill itself, and second—and this is obviously in this case the most important thing—you have attentively studied the minutes of the debate on this bill in the Soviet of the Union. Otherwise I will simply have to run through again much of what was spoken about in the chamber of the Soviet of the Union. Therefore, with your permission, I will not repeat all the points I dwelled on in my report in the Soviet of the Union, but I will try to clarify only those principal new points which were entered in the draft after it had been debated in the Soviet of the Union.

The major amendments are, of course, connected with the establishment in our state of the institution of president. We tried to accurately and unambiguously define the place and role of the president in the settlement of emergency situations. In this connection I ask you to pay attention to Part 2 of Article 2 of the draft. It is essentially a constitutional norm. It can be defined more precisely, but it cannot be amended without amending the Constitution. The scheme for the introduction of an emergency by the president is like this; it has partially been talked about already by Venyamin Fedorovich. If a danger arises to safety, to people's safety, health, or life, to the safety of law and order, the president issues an official warning of the possibility of the introduction of an emergency in the relevant locality. This warning is brought to the notice of the populace through the mass media and other means as are deemed expedient in order to quickly bring the information to the population, for instance, by means of pasting notices containing the relevant warning. If the stablization of the situation does not occur in spite of this warning, the president introduces the emergency. Such a procedure, you will remember, was proposed at the congress in the course of the debate on amendments being made to our Constitution and received constitutional enshrinement.

Although I started with the role of the president, I nevertheless deem it necessary to stress that it is the master of the house who should look after order in that house, and it is primarily the master who is answerable for order in the house. And Article 2 provides that in a union republic, if the territory of other union republics is not affected, an emergency can be declared by the republican bodies of power, with compulsory notification of this to the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR president. Many questions of the emergency situation can be settled in more detail by the republican laws on the emergency situation if the republican legislator deems it necessary to do so.

I also ask you to pay attention to Part 3 of Article 2 regulating the procedure for the introduction of an emergency on the territory of the whole country. Under the Constitution this can only be done by the Supreme Soviet. I should say that there have been very many proposals from deputies, and above all from deputies comprising the Chamber of Nationalities, to include the demand for the immediate submission of the adopted decision on introduction of an emergency on the territory of the whole country for ratification by the Congress of People's Deputies. This demand does not contradict the Cosntitution, as it sometimes said, that the constitutional norm will not require amendment, because it is being elucidated and is acquiring a more democratic character. But, honestly speaking I find it difficult to imagine a situation when an emergency is introduced throughout the country, and if such a situation does arise I am not sure that it will be possible to assemble a Congress of People's Deputies, and indeed the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet itself will, to put it mildly, become problematic.

Possibly there is a need to analyze such a situation in more detail, and I would like colleagues to express their opinion as to whether this provision should be included in the law. As you see, this version does not contain this requirement. I repeat once more that I am dwelling on this only because very many proposals of this kind have been uttered, some of them to me personally.

I should like to draw attention to Article 16 of the draft, which speaks of the possibility of the introduction of provisional presidential rule. To date, we do not know what this is. There is nothing terrible in this. There is no need to dramatize the situation. Life is wiser than all of us and it will doubtless prompt something to us in case of need as has repeatedly been the case in the past. Preceding constitutional norms knew the concept of the special form of administration, and we have introduced special administration, in particular in Nagorno-Karabakh. It is logical to suppose that presidential rule has replaced special forms of administration. Article 16, it is true, only sketchily outlines presidential rule. It is quite possible that a special law will have to be drafted regulating this circle of questions, but that is for later. Now you and I must examine the law on the emergency situation.

A few general remarks: In the course of the debates the proposal was repeatedly made to separate emergency situations caused by natural disasters and emergency situations engendered by some form of social conflict. It was proposed to adopt virtually two laws in this connection. That is an erroneous position, which cannot lead to success. Why is it erroneous? Because there is a confusion of concepts. First, the justification for the introduction of an emergency situation, which is listed in Article 1 of the bill, is one thing, but the nature of the measures to be taken in an emergency, which are listed in Article 5 of the bill, is a quite different matter. If the justifications can be various, then the list of measures to be selected for application is determined not by the justification for the introduction of the emergency situation, but by the nature of the situation which has taken shape. And today, in the course of the debate, and Venyamin Fedorovich's question, I hope this question was to some extent elucidated. For the rest, for those concerned, they, these measures, always seem the same. For instance, eviction; it will mean eviction in any event, regardless of the reasons for its implementation, and an evicted person experiences the same feelings.

Great doubts have also been expressed regarding the inclusion in the list of justifications of a number of phenomena, for instance, epizootics. What can I say regarding this? There is no argument that epizootics used to be coped with without emergency situations. We used not to have AIDS, and lived without it. But what is to guarantee that tomorrow, animals or plants will not have the same AIDS? The world community looks at these things more realistically. I will cite just one example. On 28 December 1989 the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 43/224, which is entitled: International cooperation in the field of monitoring, evaluation and forecasting of ecological threats and rendering assistance in the case of emergency ecological situations. Let us not give in in this case to the famous Chekhov character who would claim that it could not happen because it just never could.

Lastly. All things considered, we will nevertheless have to build a graduated system of measures for introducing order in the country, i.e., special situation, emergency situation, and—God forbid—martial law. In this connection we must try to avoid attempts to cram into this bill that which should relate to other legislative acts. Let us limit ourselves only to emergency situations and emergency situations alone.

Now perhaps a few words about the name of the bill, i.e., what Venyamin Fedorovich started with. He was saying that the name: "On the legal regime of the emergency situation," was better than the proposed version: "On the emergency situation." I will simply say that the short name is in my opinion nevertheless better, although it may frighten some people, which is bad in itself, because the law should protect the individual and should protect the weak. But at the same time the law with the short title "emergency situation" will, to a greater degree, reflect the essence of this law. If the need arises I will answer these questions in more detail.

Tarazevich on Duties of Nationalities Committee

LD2903112790 Moscow TASS in English 1048 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, March 29 TASS—The Soviet Parliament has adopted a bill "on the creation of the Union Republican State Committee on Nationalities Issues" in order to improve state control over national development and interethnic relations.

Commenting on the new law, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities' Commission on Nationalities Policy and Interethnic Relations, Georgiy Tarazevich, told TASS that "the Soviet Union has legislative structures involved in nationalities policy and interethnic relations, but it does not have any executive structures in this sphere."

The committee will have to do a lot, Tarazevich said. It will work to raise the legal status of national autonomies, restore the rights of peoples that were subjected to Stalin's repressions, improve the national and state structure, help develop national cultures of small ethnic groups, and protect their economic interests and coordination efforts in various ministries and departments in the sphere of inter-republican relations.

Interethnic tensions in some regions and the associated refugee problem also call for immediate actions.

The main goal of the committee is to prevent interethnic conflicts, Tarazevich said.

Lithuanian Deputy Resigns Commission Chairmanship

LD2903163690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] At the USSR Supreme Soviet session. We go over to the correspondent's post of All-Union Radio at 27 Kalinin Prospekt. Olga Vasilenko is at the microphone:

[Vasilenko] Today the work of the deputies in the commissions and committees took different directions, but first and foremost it was in law-making work. A number of draft laws are about to be submitted for the confirmation by the Supreme Soviet in the next few days, among them the draft law on the fundamentals of the economic relations of the USSR, of the union and autonomous republics. Work on it has in fact been completed today by the Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities for the Social and Economic Development of Union and Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Oblasts and Okrugs. The second reading of this document is to take place at the beginning of April, which is eagerly awaited by all the national formations, union and autonomous republics, autonomous oblasts and okrugs.

Today a number of committees returned yet again the draft law on the socialist enterprise. The work on it is going ahead with difficulty. You see, this law will largely determine the directions and form of activity of enterprises and associations. Incidentally, the draft law on taxation on enterprises' profits and incomes is also closely linked with this. It was also discussed today.

Returning to the work of the Commission for Social and Economic Development of Union and Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Oblasts and Okrugs, I will say that a serious organizational issue has been resolved there. The chairman of the commission, Deputy Vilkas from Lithuania, asked to be relieved of his duties. Today a new chairman was elected on the basis of the most democratic principles. Six candidates were nominated, they did, moreover, ask all the deputies present: Advadze, Atadzhanov, Blokhin—he is from the Committee for Economic Reform, just like Deputy Bronshteyn, and Sharipov and Academician Lisichkin. All our radio listeners know the names of these deputies well. As you can see they represent both union and autonomous republics, and are economists by profession. It seemed to me that is was difficult for the deputies to decide, so lofty was the prestige of all the candidates. But Lisichkin and Bronshteyn asked to be allowed to withdraw, so there were the four remaining candidates on the ballot papers. Blokhin, USSR People's deputy from Moldavia, received the greater number of votes. Now there is to be voting for him at the Soviet of Nationalities.

The work of the Committee for Ecology proceeded jointly with three other committees—the Committee for Women's Affairs, the Committee for Public Health, and the Committee for Agrarian Issues. Today's work was connected with the controlling functions of the committees. The deputies heard about the issue of protecting the population of our country from the detrimental effect of nitrates and pesticides. Tomorrow the hearings will be continued.

The Committee for Youth Affairs worked today with representatives of the State Committee for Labor and Social Problems. As you know, in keeping with the decision of the congress, a special state program is at present being drawn up related to internationalist servicemen, their lives and labor, to servicemen who have fought in Afghanistan.

Today a session of the Deputies' Club is also scheduled where there will be a meeting on the subject "Soviet Parliamentarianism and the Swedish Model." This is on the results of a trip by a group of deputies to Sweden.

Today, too, deputies who wish have been invited to see the documentary film "Stop Before It's Too Late!" This is about Chernobyl and Belorussia.

Next to our correspondents' post, in the conference hall, at the present time Senchagov, chairman of the State Price Committee, is making a report on the comprehensive price reform.

This is a brief account of today's proceedings. I shall conclude my account of the work of the committees and commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet here.

Three Variants of Price Reform Heard

LD2903212790 Moscow TASS in English 2107 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Report by TASS parliamentary correspondent Andrey Orlov]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—The absurdity of the price formation system, now openly recognised also by the Soviet Government, is an obstacle to a radical economic reform.

Prices in the USSR reflect neither socially required expenses for production nor the demand for products. An equivalent exchange not only between regions but also between sectors of the country's economy is therefore impossible. Wholesale, purchasing and retail prices are unconnected. Huge state subsidies, which now amount over 100 billion roubles (the country's retail trade is 500 billion roubles) are the binding link.

What reform does the government propose this time? Soviet parliament members received an answer to the question at a meeting on Thursday with Vyacheslav Senchagov, chairman of the USSR State Committee on Prices.

The committee is now working on three price reform variants, he said. The first one boils down to a 20-30 per cent rise, on the average, in wholesale, purchasing and retail prices. There will be no more subsidies and the financial market will become balanced. Prices of raw materials and fuel will increase by 80 per cent, prices of light industry and engineering products—16 per cent. The rouble's rate against Western currencies will fall by 50 per cent at the minimum (confidence in the government, it should be added, will fall too. The transition to a market economy will by no means become simpler).

The second version, an immediate transition to a Polish-pattern market, will increase 3-5 times prices of oil and coal. The number of farms will reduce 80 per cent, unprofitable enterprises will be closed and unemployment will increase fast. This variant will provide a fast transition to rouble's convertibility and the USSR's integration into the international division of labour (the rouble's rate will drop many times). It is unclear however whether the population of the country will reconcile themselves with such a "shock therapy".

And finally, the third version, the government seems to favour. This is a kind of the synthesis of the first two. It makes for "fixed" prices of oil, grain, cotton, sugar and other staple commodities, "regulated" to part of the products when the government sets the upper limit, and from 15 to 30 per cent of "free" or market prices. The deficiency of this variant is that it is obviously intermediate on the road towards establishment of a market economy. In the final account, Senchagov admitted, adoption of the second variant is inevitable—if during the transitional period, envisaged by the third variant, the population's confidence in the Government does not fall as low as to make no reforms possible.

The price reform is part of the government's measures for a radical economic reform, Senchagov said. No final choice has yet been made, he added.

Soviet of Nationalities Meets on Meskhetian Turks

LD2903194590 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1912 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 29 March (TASS)—Rafik Nishanov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, held yesterday a consultative meeting devoted to discussion of the problems of the Meskhetian Turkish population. It was attended by the leaders of a number of the country's republics and oblasts, and by representatives of that people. A thorough and businesslike exchange of views took place.

Supreme Soviet Continues in Committees 30 Mar

LD2903204590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] On Thursday [29 March], the USSR Supreme Soviet met in committees and commissions. Consideration was given to draft laws included in its agenda.

On 30 March, the depuies will also work in committees and commissions.

Political & Social

Gorbachev Relieves Health, Aviation Ministers

LD2903174190 Moscow TASS in English 1734 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has relieved Aleksandr Volkov of the duties of minister of civil aviation and Yevgeniy Chazov of the duties of health minister at their requests in connection with their transfer to other jobs.

Coal Union Claims Independence of State Structures

LD3003141390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 30 mar (TASS]—"We resolutely support the ideas of new political thinking, since they facilitate the process of improving international relations out of strengthening peace" says the platform adopted today at the extraordinary Congress of the USSR Coal Industry Workers Trade Union. Its participants have declared that the trade union, which is being renewed, is independent of state, administrative, and economic structures in all areas of activity, including the international sphere. "The trade union, notes the platform, defends the right of cooperating, according to its own choice, with the trade unions of miners of foreign countries, of joining international organizations, of organizing, together with allied trade union centers, campaigns of solidarity, and to set up joint enterprises".

As has been noted at the congress, the trade union is striving to develop traditional cooperation with the miners of Eastern European countries, after taking into account the current position of the trade unions in the region. The exchange of teams of workers with Poland and Czechoslovakia to study and implement frontranking expertise in production deserves particular attention. Soviet miners intend to continue to expand ties with miners in Australia, Britain, the United States, Canada, the FRG, France, India, Zimbabwe, and other capitalist and developing states.

The experience of four years of activities of the International Miners' Organization (IMO), the delegates stated, proves the establishment of this organization was a justified and timely step. It is capable of confidently protecting miners' interests, rendering moral and material assistance to them, strengthening unity and developing international solidarity.

Arthur Scargill, IMO chairman, present at the congress in the capacity of a guest of honor, highly appraised the Soviet coal industry workers' internationalism which manifested itself vividly in their solidarity with the 1984-85 British miners' strike.

'Not Satisfied' With Action on Demands

PM3003090190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
30 Mar 90 Second Edition p 2

[A. Shabashkevich report: "Will There Be a Free Trade Union?"]

[Text] Moscow—The 15th extraordinary Congress of the Coal Industry Workers Union continued its work in the House of the Unions Hall of Columns. The delegates must elect the trade union's new Central Committee and discuss and adopt new statutes.

Why is this an extraordinary congress? Of course, everyone recalls the recent weeks of miners' strikes that rolled like a wave across the country. The miners and the country's government arrived at a compromise at that time: The USSR Council of Ministers promulgated a resolution designed to substantially improve the situation. Judging by speeches at the congress, however, miners are not satisfied with the way the government's promises are being implemented.

We asked L. Ryabev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to comment on the progress in implementing the government decision.

"We discussed this document in Donetsk for 40 hours without a break," he said, "and in my view it was a perfectly sensible and realistic compromise, even if miners now feel that some individual provisions are being implemented too slowly. The most important question concerns the laws on pensions and leave entitlements. They affect every miner's life. Radical measures are planned. The government has completed the work on these documents. Hundreds of suggestions were received following their publication. They have all been taken into account, and the draft laws will be submitted to the Supreme Soviet in the next few days. Once these documents come into force, which will be in 1991, the bulk of miners' demands will have been met; other questions demand more time and greater costs. [end quotes not supplied]

Concerning the sale of above-plan coal output on the external market, this is now allowed. A document on the sale of eight million tonnes of coal was signed a few days ago.

The government is very slow in making decisions. This was said by many congress speakers. And they concluded: The trade union Central Committee is not militant or persistent enough.

Everyone would probably agree with this. Several miners' delegations complained about a different matter on the first day of the congress' work. Instead of a miners' congress, as agreed way back in the summer, a trade union forum had assembled. The election of delegates, according to the "opposition," was undemocratic. Consequently, only a minority of delegates represent actual workers.

Name Change, Subbotnik Agreed On

PM3003091390 Moscow TRUD in Russian
30 Mar 90 p 1

[A. Kozlov report: "The Debate Continues"]

[Text] Moscow—The 15th Congress of the Coal Industry Workers Trade Union continued its work yesterday. In the course of the debate, delegates discussed the activity of the trade union's [TU] Central Committee during the period under review and the avenues for restructuring trade union work in the sector and the trade union movement in the country. There followed a debate on the trade union's draft statutes. Delegates were offered three alternative draft statutes—elaborated by a commission set up under the trade union Central Committee, by the Karaganda territorial committee, and by Donetsk Oblast miners' trade union organizations. Questions of the new structure of trade union organs were also discussed. Many of those present spoke about the expediency of replacing the trade union Central Committee by a trade union sector council, and the Central Committee Presidium by a council of trade union committee chairmen; they also spoke in favor of creating professional associations and so on.

Delegates adopted a decision to change the name of the Coal Industry Workers [rabochikh] Trade Union to the Coal Industry Working People's [rabotnikov] Trade Union.

The congress backed the initiative of the "Surgutneftegaz" Production Association trade union committee to organize a trade union subbotnik dedicated to the 120th anniversary of Vladimir Ilich Lenin's birth on 21 April. Delegates and participants in the extraordinary congress called on miners and mine builders, on all labor collectives in the sector, to emulate the oil workers' example.

Funds earned during the subbotnik will be transferred to the accounts of trade union committees for solving urgent problems of working people, members of their families, and war and labor veterans, and for offering charitable assistance to refugees, poor and low-income families, orphans, and invalids.

L.D. Ryabev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, took part in the second day of the congress' work.

The congress continues its work.

'Heated' Discussion Reported

LD3003104390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1855 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar (TASS)—Opportunities for renewing the trade union of coal industry workers must be sought along the path of consolidation and not dissension. Only such an approach leads to an accelerated solution of the acute social and economic problems in what is perhaps the least fortunate branch of the

Soviet economy. This is the conviction of the participants in the extraordinary congress of coal industry workers being held in Moscow. But in order for this conviction to prevail at the congress, a two-day heated discussion, which at times turned into conflict, was needed.

The speeches by some representatives of the strike committees from Vorkuta and Inta which spearheaded last year's strikes in the coal basin in the North-West of the country sparked off the discussion. They declared the congress invalid since, according to their calculations, only 122 of over 600 delegates happen to be underground workers, while the remaining ones are "apparatchiks," incapable of solving the specific problems of miners. Orally and in the posters pasted up in the foyer of the House of the Unions they called upon the "worker delegates" to disperse and to assemble later for a separate miners' congress of their own. They were opposed by chairmen of trade union committees who in recent past were themselves drift miners, facemen, and underground transport drivers and who were elected to the forum democratically at trade union conferences. When the delegates' powers were officially endorsed, the opposition group ostentiously left the hall.

Arthur Scargill, (Great Britain), guest of honor of the congress and chairman of the International Miners' Organization, spoke, on the basis of his country's experience, of the danger of splits in the trade union movement. It is only within a single, unified trade union, he stressed, that coal industry workers are capable of waging an effective struggle to have their social and economic demands satisfied.

It was considerably later than planned when the delegates got down to examining the congress' program documents. The function of protection—for the sake of which the trade union was created—should become the main function of the renewed trade union, noted those who spoke. The trade union ought to be within its rights to adopt and implement its own platforms, to work out altrnative programs, to express its disagreement with such decisions of state bodies as encroach upon the interests of the working people, and to defend its position by all lawful means. However, the delegates stressed that activities of the Coal Industry Workers' Trade Union and those of other industrial trade union centers of the country can only be effective after the USSR Supreme Soviet has passed a law on trade unions.

The congress overran the two days set aside by the rules and on Friday will continue work on the platform and statute of the trade union.

Trade Union Issues Discussed

LD3003122690 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Report by correspondents L. Khatayevich and V. Gusev; from the "Vremya" newcast]

[Excerpts] What must an industrial trade union be like? This question was being tackled in Moscow today at the Congress of the Coal Industry Workers' Trade Union.

[Correspondent] This is the poster Muscovites saw today in the very center of the capital. [poster shown, stating: 15th Congress of the Coal Industry Workers' Trade Union] Indeed, this event took place. But, to be precise, one word is missing—it is not simply a congress, but an extraordinary one. The decision to hold it was set down on paper in the agreement between the government and the miners last summer, after the strike. Why?

[Unidentified delegate] Coal industry trade unions do not, as it were, express the interests of the working people, nor do they discharge their function toward this end. This is why the extraordinary congress is being held.

[Correspondent] One more detail is this: It is a congress of the workers engaged in the coal industry, those employed in the main professions, but, as the first issue of the new miners' weekly NA GORA! has reported, these people amount to merely 123 out of more than 600 delegates. This statistic became the reason why the congress needed more than two hours to settle the procedural issues that emerged.

Now, more to the point: The report by Srebnyy, chairman of the Trade Union's Central Committee, failed to rehabilitate the leadership for the blunders which have been allowed to occur. The wages of 20 percent of piece-workers are lower than their wage rates. [as heard] As for employment—thousands of miners are threatened with redundancy in connection with the low profitability of collieries, and precedents already exist.

As for labor safety: 600 people lose their lives in mines every year.

As for welfare conditions: Housing waiting lists have not become smaller; 83 percent of the demand for kindergartens has been satisfied and for cultural facilities the figure is 64 percent. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] There was a fierce discussion at the congress today. How do the members of the trade union see its future? Here is one of the views: [V.V. Ladygin, chairman of the trade union's Donbass Territorial Committee—identified by caption] Independent, independent in three areas: The trade union budget, we've taken this on; social security for as long as the state is unable to take it on, legislative initiative and the right of veto, within the industry at any rate, to the decisions the ministry makes. As for the relationship with the AUCCTU—partnership, only partnership, without diktat.

Presidential Council Member Yarin Interviewed

LD2903142190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] You will recall that a Presidential Council was recently organized in our country. This is something new for us, and it has of course given rise to many questions: What will this body do, what are its functions, and the obligations of its members? All in all there were quite a lot of questions, all of them varied. I would remind you that you can find a reply to many of them in the first speech by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev as president of the country. As you know, this speech was broadcast on Central Television and All-Union Radio, and its text was also published in the central press. This subject continues to retain its topicality, and speaking in our program today is Veniamin Aleksandrovich Yarin, member of the Presidential Council, and a USSR peoples deputy.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Veniamin Aleksandrovich, it is well know that the president selected this team for like-minded people. What do you think, won't this body be in constant agreement, where there won't be any debate, any exchange of views or different points of view?

[Yarin] Judging from the first session, a single view was lacking there. That is, each person voiced his view on the activity of the Presidential Council. We were united on one point: Mikhail Sergeyevich said straight—there won't be any turning back. And he, as president, doesn't intend to take a single step back, and he won't. Only forward, democratization, implementation of all the economic reforms which we have laid down, strengthening of the market structures, that's in purely economic terms, seeking out sensible cooperation, transferring and renewing the power of the soviets, helping this new power and new possibilities of the soviets to take root, and much, much more, was discussed. In this we are, probably, all of like mind, and for this reason I would very much like to be of use to the president in the processes of renewing our society.

[Correspondent] Veniamin Alseksandrovich, how do you assess the role of the Presidential Council in making decisions of the highest state importance?

[Yarin] Probably by working out certain measures, and through the president's decree to establish supervision of all the measures which are to be implemented, both in the economy and in political life. Here's an example for you. We have adopted a law on land, we are permitting leasing. But why has this remained mere words on paper? Why? For this reason, one of the most imminent matters to be sorted out under the president is this—what, specifically, needs to be done in order that these laws might begin to function.

[Correspondent] Veniamin Aleksandrovich, what do you think, should the Presidential Council be not only a consultative body, but also a thinking body, that is, one that elaborates some kind of decisions in the long term, calculating and assessing certain situations over a period?

[Yarin] Yes, we also talked about this, so that we might always reply to a number of questions—what we want, how to achieve it, and what it will give us.

Yeltsin Resting After 'Vascular Problem'

LD3003065690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0220 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Summary] Presenter N. Neych contacts Boris Yeltsin in the Crimea by telephone to discuss his contribution to charity work. Yeltsin talks about the disposable syringes he brought back with him from lecture tours abroad and regrets that the Russian tradition of giving charity has been lost. Neych asks Yeltsin how he is enjoying his holiday, to which the latter replies: "Well, I would not say I am on holiday. The thing is that after some really strong pressure from various quarters I became slightly ill. I had a vascular problem, so I decided to use up some of my holidays—not just to extend the sick leave I was already on—to come here for two weeks to get back into fighting form. And after three days here, I am already convinced I will be in good shape in two weeks' time and will continue the fight."

KGB Guard Service Chief Interviewed

PM2903154190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 90 Second Edition p 6

[Interview with General Yu.S. Plekhanov, chief of the USSR KGB Guard Service, by G. Ovcharenko: "Who Guards the President?"; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] It all happened in a matter of seconds. A visitor to the CPSU Central Committee reception room whipped a sawed-off gun from under his coat, cocked it, and.... No one knows how it would have ended, but then a strong, squat man flung himself upon the twin barrels and overpowered the criminal.

As a rule, the people of the USSR KGB Guard Service do not wear uniform but endeavor to go unnoticed and do not parade their work. We know little about them—which is, perhaps, why there is an ambivalent attitude toward them.

But what if you try to get to know a little better these strapping young men in civilian clothes?

"My pleasure," said General Yu. Plekhanov, chief of the USSR KGB Guard Service, agreeing to a meeting. "I am prepared to answer all questions."

So our conversation took place. [passage omitted]

[Ovcharenko] What tasks are tackled by the subdepartment which you head?

[Plekhanov] Together with other departments concerned the guard service ensures the security of the Congresses of USSR People's Deputies, the USSR Supreme Soviet sessions, other very important sociopolitical events, and major international forums and, in accordance with USSR Council of Ministers resolutions, it guards installations of statewide significance, leaders of the Soviet state and government, and also heads of state and government of foreign countries who come to the USSR on official and working visits, on vacation, or for treatment. In addition, with regard to the fact that the top legislative and executive organs of power are located in the Kremlin, our service is entrusted with guarding the Moscow Kremlin—the symbol of statehood and culture and an asset of our national history.

[Ovcharenko] If someone wishes to enter your service, what requirements must this person meet?

[Plekhanov] When specifying the criteria of selection for guard subunits, it has to be noted that these criteria are quite tough. This stems from the nature of the tasks to be tackled, of which I have already spoken. Naturally, this obliges us, when selecting candidates, to analyze primarily their ideological and political training, their standards of morality and awareness, and their self-educative skills. Only given these qualities can you end up with a morally irreproachable, professionally trained guard staffer. With regard to the specific nature of our service, the candidates' physical training also plays a major role. To give a rough portrayal of the stresses that a guard staffer has to endure in the fulfillment of his duties, the mental and physical loads are fairly equally balanced. Concluding my reply to this question, I wish to point out that there are no specialized educational institutions in the country for training guard employees. All practical training is carried out directly while serving in our subdepartment.

[Ovcharenko] Some of our readers believe that the guard service is outdated. So would it not be better to use the men for other work?

[Plekhanov] Such questions are indeed put to chekists during meetings in labor collectives. What is there to say here? Unfortunately, terrorism has recently become a real factor influencing the political situation. It is sufficient to recall the Kennedy brothers, Olof Palme, Indira Gandhi, the attempt on Ronald Reagan's life, and much besides. Terrorist intentions are also manifested in our country. Here are the facts. A citizen was arrested in Red Square with an explosive device on him. He intended to use it during a May Day demonstration of working people. The next day a citizen was arrested in Red Square with a gun which had gone off accidentally. Last year, among the flow of visitors to the Moscow Kremlin at the time of the New Year festivities, a citizen carrying an edged weapon with intent was disarmed. No less a public danger is posed by persons with mental disorders. In the CPSU Central Committee reception room recently Major V. Frolov displayed courage and high professionalism in disarming a criminal who had a sawed-off gun and an edged weapon about his person. In fact, this was the incident that you described at the beginning of our conversation. Alas, it is not an isolated incident. Every month our employees detect and arrest more than 10 citizens with criminal intentions at installations which they are guarding, in the Kremlin, and in Red Square.

As regards the forces used to guard leaders of the Soviet state, people's deputies, and important foreign guests, in resolving this task we endeavor to be guided not by numbers, but by ability. Many articles about our service have appeared in the mass media recently. Some of them raise a smile, and we regard them as good disinformation which makes it possible to confuse the enemy by exaggerating our forces and abilities. Others in the guise of factual materials indulge in overt slander—which cannot fail to cause indignation. For example, rumors are being spread about the unsubstantiated use of firearms by our employees. In this connection I can say, for example, that at least throughout the postwar period guard employees have not once used weapons, except in training sessions and on the shooting range. Although they are able to do so in a highly professional manner.

Intoxicated by rallies, certain populists who, incidentally, despite what they may clain to the contrary, have not declined protection in the past, get carried away and try to compare our special service forces and Western ones. In this connection I must declare with all civic responsibility that in terms both of the number of employees and of cost, our guard service is many times, if not to say tens of times, smaller than analogous Western ones. This is why, when guarding major sociopolitical events, we bring in forces from other KGB subdepartments, as well as, incidentally, when checking out particularly urgent reports of terrorist acts being prepared.

[Ovcharenko] You obviously have to make contact with representatives of analogous special services when guarding leaders of the Soviet state on their visits abroad. How do you assess these ties?

[Plekhanov] Not even the most careful preparation and training under "domestic" conditions will substitute for knowledge of the special features of the country to be visited and the main elements of the operational situation. So we coordinate our actions with the local special services. We do likewise when they visit our country. Of course, it is easier for us to work with those special services which have similar methods of ensuring security to ours. In this case we quickly find a common language. But even if our approaches to security guard methodology differ, a real professional will always see his colleague's strong and weak points, correct his actions, and backstop his partner.

We have developed good relations with Mr. Simpson, the director of the U.S. secret service, and others of his colleagues; with Mr. Tiitinen, leader of Finland's SUOPO [Security Police], and his employees. In close contact and an atmosphere of mutual trust we have resolved joint tasks with the police leaders of the FRG, New York, and London's Scotland Yard, who, for example, demonstrated to us their automated systems for the command and control of police teams. What I have said also applies in full to a whole number of other leaders of the special services in many countries where we have been recently.

[Ovcharenko] What technical facilities does the guard service use?

[Plekhanov] Primarily radio communications equipment, guard staffers' hand arms, and vehicles. All the aforesaid is Soviet-made. So we spend no currency on acquiring them. But, of course, there are problems with the guard service's technical equipment, and we are resolving them jointly with industry, on whose assistance we count.

[Ovcharenko] Which documents define the basis of the guard service's activity?

[Plekhanov] The statute on the KGB is the chief normative act governing the guard service's activity. It clearly formulates our tasks and functions. A whole series of departmental normative acts has been drawn up on the basis of the said statute. It must be pointed out here that they all have a single basis—the USSR Constitution and the laws of the Soviet Union. This is why there are no contradictions between them. At the same time, with regard to the measures to implement legal reform in the country, there is also an urgent need to revise a number of our legal acts. We are working actively in this area. There is just one approach here—the new normative acts must correspond fully to the role and place of the state security organs in the system of the rule-of-law state.

[Ovcharenko] What is the guard employees' work regime?

[Plekhanov] As a rule, 24 hours on and 48 off. But this certainly does not mean that, having worked 24 hours, they have the possibility of not turning up for service for 48 hours. For there is quite a strenuous training process, and many of our employees study in higher educational institutions and at the USSR KGB Higher School. In addition, there has recently been a substantial increase in the volume of our subdivision's official activity. At the same time there has been a considerable drop in its staffing level. It is natural that under these conditions there has been a sharp increase in the burdens on guard employees, and for many of them their workload is grossly excessive—exceeding what is permissible by 100 percent or more. In addition, account must also be taken of the fact that many officers and ensigns have families. And we have had to resolve questions connected with moving individual employees to sectors with a smaller work volume. However, the overwhelming majority of our officers and ensigns devote themselves totally to fulfilling their official duty. I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to them and their relatives and friends for their work and their understanding of the importance of our work.

[Ovcharenko] What benefits and privileges do guard service employees enjoy?

[Plekhanov] We enjoy no benefits other than those provided for by law. Yes, indeed, individual categories of guard employees have the opportunity, in accordance with existing legislation, to be transferred to the reserve or to retire on pension earlier than in statewide establishments. But this stems from the nature of our service. As for questions of social and consumer services, they are resolved in an analogous way to the majority of Moscow enterprises. With the help of the trade network a system has been organized whereby manufactured goods are brought to our employees, and they are provided with a grocery order system. People wait in line for housing space in our subdivision in full accordance with the existing regulations in Moscow for registering those who need improved housing conditions. So no exceptions are made for our employees in resolving social and consumer questions, and we have no special retail establishments. A guard employee receives, on average, R230-250 a month. A salary for military rank is added to this amount.

[Ovcharenko] A process of restructuring operational service activity is under way in state security organs. This has been reported in quite great detail in the press. In what does perestroyka in the guard service consist?

[Plekhanov] We sense how the situation in which we live and work is changing. Political life in the country has become more active, and the work regime of leaders of the state and government has changed. They are constantly among people and have begun traveling more about the country and abroad. All this is obliging us to actively restructure our work and cut back structural components unconnected with guarding. Therefore we are formulating new forms and methods of resolving the tasks set before the guard subunits, which will enable us to operate efficiently and in a politically well-adjusted and professionally competent manner. Here we proceed from the fundamental thesis that the state security organs must strictly subordinate their activity to the interests of the state and society. The decision adopted by the top state organs this year to abolish the Ninth Administration and set up the USSR KGB Guard Service is a result of your [as published] restructuring work at the present stage. The service's very name clearly defines the tasks and functions of the new subdepartment.

[Ovcharenko] In recent years the press has probably been creating the greatest discomfort for your service, has it not? For it is always very active....

[Plekhanov] When we meet with our colleagues from abroad, we certainly agree on one thing: We always have two common "adversaries" (apart from terrorists)—they are protocol and the press. To be serious, both we and representatives of the mass media must learn to respect each other's difficult work.

[Ovcharenko] My final question, Yuriy Sergeyevich: Does your service guard the president?

[Plekhanov] Of course.

CPSU Veteran Urges 'Honesty,' 'Decency'

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[Letter from A. Yegorov, CPSU member since 1948, under the rubric "Communist Ethics": "They Should Be Irreproachable"]

[Text] Kalinin—Having read the draft CPSU Central Committee platform, I singled out these phrases to reflect on: "The party will work urgently on... the creation of legal and moral guarantees of universal human values such as honesty and decency...."

These simple moral concepts, which have always been valued by all peoples, have long required guaranteed protection in our country. After all, it is no secret to anyone that falsity, sanctimony, deceit, and hypocrisy have pervaded all the pores of our society, and this includes the party environment.

When I read the report by N. Tatarchuk, first secretary of the CPSU Obkom [Oblast Party Committee], at a routine plenum, which was published in the oblast newspaper, I was very surprised by his interpretation of facts that are well known to me. Nikolay Petrovich, reproaching "certain party committees" for the fact that "they do not deem it necessary to hold specific culprits responsible for their actions through strict party methods," says with righteous anger: "Cases of abuse and immoral actions on the part of leading workers are particularly scandalous.... The CPSU obkom Party Control Commission and the oblast People's Control Committee have established that Nikitin, chief of a territorial construction association, committed violations in the solution of the housing question, in the construction of dachas and a garage, and in the allocation of cars. Proletarskiy CPSU Raykom [rayon committee] Bureau passed a resolution expelling him from the CPSU ranks for abusing and taking advantage of his official position."

All this is true, but a small correction is needed. Back in July 1989, S. Gaychenkov, a member of the party commission, summoned A. Lebedev, who had informed the party obkom of Nikitin's illegal actions, and told him that the "facts were not confirmed."

A few months later Nikitin was nominated as a candidate oblast soviet deputy from Spirovskiy Electoral District at the suggestion of the party apparatus. War and labor veterans were obliged to appeal to A. Ilyenko, deputy chairman of the USSR Party Control Committee. An inspection carried out independently of the local authorities revealed that Nikitin's excessively intense activity had not only extended beyond the limits of morality, but also constituted a criminal offense: The case was remitted to the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Prosecutor's Office.

V. Savelev, first secretary of Moscovskiy Raykom, had every reason to say at that obkom plenum: "I cannot concede that Nikolay Fedorovich Tatarchuk or any of the secretaries were unaware of this leader's behavior...." And of course, they knew about it very well. Nikitin was transferred from Tula to Kalinin three years earlier with the blessing of the obkom first secretary. Having changed address twice here, he illegally moved into a three-room apartment in a bloc that had been constructed with party funds. He moved there without even having a Kalinin residence permit and without giving up his four-room apartment in Tula.

The explanations for these apartment intrigues that he gave to E. Fedorovskiy, an inspector at the RSFSR People's Control Committee, were very strange (I quote from KALININSKAYA PRAVDA): "Under pressure from these would be people's avengers, and at the request of CPSU Obkom First Secretary N.F. Tatarchuk, I was forced to assign it to my son Sergey, who has a wife and his own family, and who is provided with accommodation in the city of Tula. This was apparently to satisfy demands by informal organizations.

"Of course, this was stupid, and my son, together with his wife and the child she is expecting, do not intend to register themselves in this accommodation.

"As for the apartment in Tula, it now belongs to my son and his first and second wives...."

This is typical of Nikitin, and his behavior is clear. But how are we to perceive the obkom first secretary, who turned a blind eye to the "liberties" his protege took and ignored the numerous signals of his improper actions, and yet, when it was no longer possible to protect the discredited worker, he posed as an uncompromising defender of party honor and started accusing others of conniving with immorality?!

An insincere word has never made anyone look better, and it has never boosted anyone's prestige. Until moral self-control becomes a criterion of every communist's character, the party will suffer from a deficit of trust.

'Democratic Platform' Principles Criticized

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[Article by USSR People's Deputy V. Romanov under the rubric "We Discuss Draft CPSU Central Committee Platform": "Partial Marxism?"]

[Text] Magnitogorsk—The democratic platform of the all-union conference of party clubs is a unique alternative to the draft CPSU Central Committee Platform for the congress. It contains many interesting proposals on party-organizational questions. But as a reader what I do not accept above all is the meetings tone, the label-sticking style and the peremptoriness of the arguments of its authors, who lay claim to the role of supreme spiritual arbiters in the party and the country.

It is surprising that the "democratic platform" is "without a platform" since it has no socioeconomic program. It does not answer the main question: What kind of society the radicals actually intend to build or to complete building from the viewpoint of their ideas of social justice? In other words, the platform does not answer the vitally important questions: Where are we to go next and by what means are we to achieve the set goals? In my view the platform's cognitive level does not rise above noting the shortcomings with which everyone is familiar and above negative cliches packaged as loud declarations.

The initial theoretical principles of the "democratic platform" are so diffuse and vague and contradictory that you cannot understand who you are dealing with: social democrats, anarcho-syndicalists, or cadets. Its constructive theoretical section is woven of truisms and declarations regarding the need for the abolition of totalitarianism, the transition to democratic socialism, and the priority of general human values, humanism, pluralism, and so forth. As the main avenue of reform of the party's ideology the radicals suggest renouncing "the dogmatic interpretation of Marxism." But they advocate "the use of that part of the Marxist legacy which has retained significance under present conditions." Try to work out on the position of which Marxism our "radical reformers" stand. Although they mention in passing that "the dogmatic ideas of the historic mission of the working class, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the inevitability and necessity of socialist revolution are in need of fundamental revision" and so forth. But having said "a" they should also have said "b": what exactly they intend to review, what specifically they intend to preserve in Marxism....

The initial premise of the "radical reformers'" platform is the thesis of the crisis of communist ideology. Perhaps only the most desperate anticommunists in the West now speak in this categorical form. I do not intend to agitate for Soviet power, so to speak, but you have to be blind not to notice that the socialist idea and the experience of specific transformations in the socialist countries have exerted enormous revolutionizing influence on the capitalist system itself and on the entire postwar history of man's development. Today this truth is recognized by eminent representatives of the bourgeois world. The very existence of the socialist system "has roused capitalism to improve itself, to accept substantial elements of socialist experience in the socioeconomic sphere and to democratize its political system." The developed capitalist countries have in particular "borrowed" from us the idea of centralism and transformed it into a powerful lever for the state regulation of the economy and "statized" private ownership to a considerable extent to expand the material basis of centralism and conformity to the plan. Incidentally, the initial condition for the "Japanese miracle" was the powerful coordinating role of the state, which was able to unite the interests of different representatives of national capital in a plan to win the world market and to concentrate the Japanese monopolies' efforts on the main avenues of scientific and technical progress. Let us note that the economy's "statization" is a kind of denial of capitalism as a system. Only our supporters of a pure market economy repeat the old, alien "news" and advise beginning everything from the beginning, relying essentially on the methods of the era of initial accumulation.

It is not a case of the crisis of communist ideology as our radicals try to assert but of the need to "purge" socialist ideals of the vulgarization and distortion of the past embodied in that same Soviet model of socialism and of distortions of modern political fashion which consigns these ideals and principles to the garbage heap of history under the flag of the struggle against dogmatism. Today we need an objective assessment of the CPSU's historical experience free from new stereotypes which reduce this experience merely to "unprecedented disasters" and deformations.

The party clubs' platform unreservedly attacks the principle of democratic centralism essentially merely on the grounds that we have not learned to make proper use of this "instrument." Here the radicals use the quite hackneyed ploy of attacking democratic centralism, caricaturing and vulgarizing its true content. Yet after all it is not the principle itself which is to blame but the ugly, bureaucratic form of its implementation when centralist principles were absolutized to the detriment of democratic principles. In accordance with Lenin's concept of party building we must balance these two principles, ensuring primarily the power of the party mass. That is the essence of the party's democratization. Demanding the repeal of democratic socialism, the platform's authors offer in exchange precisely the same general democratic principles which are the true characteristics of democratic centralism (appointment by election, glasnost, the subordination of the minority to the majority while granting statutory guarantees of the defense of the minority, and so forth).

V.I. Lenin saw two facets in democratic centralism: the use of **the methods of "meetings debate"** at the stage of the elaboration and taking of decisions, that is the maximum consideration of the opinions and interests of the party mass, including the position of the minority, and at the same time **unity of will and actions** at the stage of the execution of a decision with attributes like strict party discipline, personal responsibility, and the subordination of the minority to the majority. Incidentally, human history has so far failed to think up a mechanism for taking political decisions other than the will of the majority. The pluralism of opinions and the dissent of the minority should not prevent unity of actions in implementing the decisions taken. Nor is it a secret that any minority seeks to become the majority. As soon as it does it sometimes forgets the rights of those who have found themselves in the minority. A characteristic example. The Baltic deputies at the union congress act as the most fervent supporters of the right of the minority to dissent, right up to the right of "veto." But in their own organs of power they use the parliamentary machine of the majority while totally ignoring the will of the minority. Fine democrats!

The following question also arises: From the arsenal of what political science have the "radical reformers" borrowed the principle of dividing parties into vanguard and parliamentary parties? (The platform suggests transforming the CPSU from a vanguard party into a parliamentary party).

At all times the political parties of various class hues and shades have been the nucleus of the sociopolitical system, the expressers of the fundamental interests and will of classes and social groups, the repositories of their experience and traditions. They have always acted as the vanguard, leading force with regard to the movement of either the ruling or the oppressed class and as the material bearers of their ideology. Such is the nature and historical function of any truly political party. So that history itself is the "first discoverer" of the idea of the party's vanguard role. In this connection V.I. Lenin used to stress that no single class in history has achieved rule unless it put forward its foremost representatives capable of organizing and guiding a movement. It is another matter when the party, with full responsibility, should implement its vanguard role without usurping or altering the content of the activity of state power. V.I. Lenin saw parliamentary activity as only one facet of political work. He saw the essence of party leadership primarily in the correctness of the party's strategy touching on all spheres and facets of the masses' revolutionary creation and in the special heightened responsibility of the communists for the most complex sectors of society's life.

The party's well known "exclusive focus" in the parliamentary struggle will inevitably lead it to be transformed into a sect of politics mongering functionaries for whom a career as a civil servant or deputy will become an end in itself. Incidentally, god alone knows what meaning the authors of the platform invest in the concept "democratic party of the parliamentary type" which they intend to create on the basis of a reformed CPSU. Here they invest it with the functions of a typically "vanguard party": the elaboration of strategic programs for the country's development, the political struggle for levers of power at all levels, the formation of a government and the implementation of its own election programs, ideological work among the masses, the propaganda of its ideals, the organizational consolidation of the party. All that is natural. Why then, you ask, the terminological play with parliamentary and vanguard parties? The main thing is that a renewed CPSU should fully reflect the fundamental interests of the broad working masses and correctly define the strategy for making headway, a strategy according with our socialist choice and the socialist principles of social justice.

The nature of social justice in turn is determined by the degree of people's real equality on the one hand and by the maintenance of the social conditions which make it possible to reveal more fully the internal potential and creative forces of one and all on the other.

The "democratic platform" links the parliamentary parties with an attribute like freedom of factions and groupings and ideological trends. It is, therefore, no accident that the radicals are demanding the repeal of the resolution of the 10th congress of the Russian Communist Party of Bolsheviks "on the unity of the party." Moreover, they believe that "factions may become the basis for the emergence of several political parties." As Vladimir Ilich aptly put it, factionalism which is praised is "the flashing and din of **intellectual** anarchism."

In assessing the thrust of the party's ideological and organizational foundations Lenin drew attention to the following factors. On the one hand he stressed that "organization without ideology is nonsense." Consequently the party must be an alliance of like-minded people (for all the possible and necessary pluralism of opinions) cemented by the commonality of positions in assessing the party's strategic goals, its fundamental statutory principles, and its main spiritual values. The communist party will comply with its nature and historic function (and even name) only as long as its theoretical armament is based on the fundamental principles and laws of the revolutionary teaching of Marx and Lenin enriched and amended by the experience and lessons of socialist building and the workers and national liberation movement. On the other hand V.I. Lenin noted that "ideological unification" should be backed up by "the organization's material unity."

The proposals put forward by the "democratic platform" regarding the gradual transition to a federalist principle in the building the CPSU are the logical continuation of the thesis of the freedom of factions and groupings. Factionalism and federalism will inevitably give rise to the CPSU's organizational sluggishness, which under the conditions of the multiparty system is tantamount to the party's political death. Whether we want it or not today the problem of the ideological and organizational delimitation of diverse political forces so far living "under one roof" is on the agenda today.

The authors of the "democratic platform" view the multiparty system as the main guarantee of the truly democratic structure of society and a panacea for all our troubles. It is obvious that this phenomenon is becoming a reality of our day. But we should not equate the multiparty system and democratic socialism. It must be said that representative democracy with the very important attribute that is the multiparty system is still a screen, a facade behind which you can hide whatever you like: a regime of personal power, a graphically expressed antipopular policy, or even a slave-owning democracy far removed from the true power of the people. We should also consider the fact that the multiparty system is primarily the result and reflection of the social heterogeneity of society and a certain polarization of the fundamental interests of various social groups right up to class antagonisms. It is another matter that the multiparty system in that same bourgeois world, in the United States for instance, is used as a mechanism to "replace tired horses": One bourgeois party regularly replaces the other at the helm.

With regard to our conditions the multiparty system cannot appear by order or by an approved law. Naturally it arises gradually (legally or illegally) when society is sufficiently clearly differentiated along class-forming lines, when the fundamental interests of different social groups begin to diverge or the material interests and spiritual values of individual strata are markedly defined. In a socialist society, it seems to me (and this is confirmed by historical experience) a multiparty system is possible in two cases. In the first case when, alongside the communist party, there appears a whole range of alternative parties of antisocialist orientation reflecting the fundamental interests of the same businessmen of the shadow economy and the private ownership structure which is really oriented toward the exploitation of the worker and of pseudo-cooperative members acting as parasites on the appropriation of other people's labor. I think that this type of multiparty system under our conditions should not get through since we have linked our destiny with a socialist choice which rules out the "capital-hired labor" categories. In the other case a multiparty system is possible as an alliance of parties united by the commonality of their main strategic goals focused on the implementation of the ideals of humane, democratized socialism. Individual parties may express the specific, primarily economic, interests of social groups: labor cooperatives, individual farmers, and groups connected with individual labor activity in the city. But parties of this kind are nonetheless more similar to the status of public organizations.

Political parties are not clubs, but associations based on interests. The need for an independent party is manifested clearly enough only when a particular social group presents its special economic interest distinct from the interests of other groups and its own specific spiritual and ideological values. I should like to know which social forces' interests the supporters of the "democratic platform" intend to express?

We cannot ignore today the fact that many Soviet people entirely sincerely see the multiparty system primarily as the only radical means which can protect the CPSU and society from stagnation, degeneration, and overrunning by bureaucracy. But it seems to me that this means is nonetheless artificial. A dozen, even a hundred parties can be created in the USSR. And they can be obedient henchmen, drive belts implementing the will of the leaders of the main political party.

In my view the only reliable, unforced guarantee of the fundamental renewal and democratization of the party and society is **the real complete power of the soviets**: from the USSR Supreme Soviet to the rural soviet. When the soviets really have full power, objective reality itself will oblige the party to influence the multimillion masses and the system of their organizations "not through the force of power," as Lenin put it, "but through the force of authority, greater experience, greater diversity, and greater talent."

In my view it is not a multiparty system but the real participation of the broad strata of working people in the elaboration and adoption of management decisions within their production collectives, the active stance of the party masses on the basis of the democratization of internal party life, and the tested, scientifically justified strategy of the CPSU—these are the main guarantees of the democratization of our society and of fundamental transformations.

One last point. When will we learn to have elementary respect for ourselves and stop throwing mud indiscriminately at all our values, at everything created and won by the selfless labor of older generations? Today Western Sovietologists have been obliged to defend the Land of the Soviet from attacks from within. Answering the question what do you dislike in Soviet perestroyka, the well known Sovietologists M. Goldman replied: "The bitterness with which you treat your past."

Slow Progress on Employment Program Viewed

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[P. Nikitin article: "Formulas Based on 'Guesswork'; Formulation of Employment Program Needs Public Monitoring"]

[Text] "A cooperative employment office has opened in Yaroslavl," the local newspaper reported with satisfaction. I shivered in alarm. Are we really going to let cooperatives trade in jobs? And what about the state?

"According to our figures, there are **about 6 million people** in our country today who want jobs but for various reasons cannot get them," Yu. Tigalev, chief of the AUCCTU [All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions] employment sector, explained. "And the socialist labor market will continue to fill up."

Yu. Tigalev is a member of the working group preparing the Law on Employment. Structural shifts in the economy instituted by perestroyka are being accompanied by a significant release of manpower. Goskomstat [State Committee for Statistics] figures testify that in the first nine months of 1989 alone 1.3 million people lost their jobs. The question "Are Socialism and Unemployment Compatible?" which has been discussed recently in the media, has already become a reality, it seems: Admittedly, unemployment is recognized as an "unusual phenomenon" by the draft Law on Employment.

Experience, alas, has taught us not to trust clauses like "as a rule" or "in certain cases." The position of leading scientists, who suddenly swiftly reversed their convictions, is also worrying. For instance, literally three months ago Doctor of Economic Sciences A. Kotlyar publicly told off those who are calling for "a little unemployment," but today, V. Kolosov, chief of the USSR Goskomtrud [State Committee for Labor and Social Problems] Administration for Labor Resources and Employment, told me with satisfaction, "he has adopted his opponents' viewpoint."

Doubts automatically arise: Are those who for many years "went profoundly wrong" capable of correctly mapping out our future, reducing to a minimum the possible negative consequences of restructuring the economic mechanism? Incidentally, it is naive to think that the question of whether unemployment exists depends on A. Kotlyar or someone's personal wish—it is a reflection of society's economic state.

"Unemployment has been in existence for a long time," Ye. Antosenkov, director of the Labor Scientific Research Institute, agreed with the AUCCTU representative. "**Two million** people are affected by it."

The attentive reader will have noted that the AUCCTU and Goskomtrud figures differ. Yu. Tigalev believes that Goskomtrud workers, taking a bureaucratic stance, are minimizing them. In their turn, Goskomtrud officials accuse AUCCTU of "exaggerating." It is difficult to trust either side: Both are engaging in "guesswork." The country does not have a system for calculating the number of unemployed.

Articles of the draft Law on Employment promise unemployed Soviet citizens many benefits. People who remain unemployed will receive benefits for 26 weeks. The state is obliged to give material assistance to the families of the unemployed taking into account the presence of elderly and juvenile dependents, to provide free information about vacancies, and also to teach new trades. But don't we have enough ineffective laws, aren't there enough fine promises which have remained fine wishes? The working man needs guarantees which give him the right to work, a right which is, incidentally, enshrined in the Constitution.

The State Employment Program formulated in the depths of Goskomtrud is intended to reinforce the law. Mixing with those who are working on it, I could not get rid of the feeling that I was going back in time: I had heard so many sweet promises in the years of stagnation....

"The program is anticipatory in character," V. Kolosov, chief of the USSR Goskomtrud Labor Resources and Employment Administration, put it to me. "Never before has a single economic reform in the country been accompanied by work of this kind."

To the question of what, according to his predictions, unemployment would be like in the year 2000, Kolosov answered in a reassuring way:

"Only 0.5 percent, a lot less than in fortunate Sweden where this indicator is 1.5-2 percent."

To tell the truth, I did not believe him. Not only because I saw a different figure which was eight times greater in the draft State Employment Program, which I was shown at the Labor Scientific Research Institute. (Again different interpretations, only this time in one department.) There is no such thing as a miracle: What "fortunate Sweden" achieved over many decades will scarcely be achieved by us in a few years.

Let us imagine that the law comes into force tomorrow, and 2-6 million unemployed are standing in line for benefits. Will our budget stand up to this "largesse?" After all, expenditure on benefits is only a fraction of what the developed countries spend on law enforcement. Will we succeed in curbing the unpredictable forces of the "labor market" if we can't achieve a breakthrough in the consumer market and back off and make decisions which often end in deadlock or do not produce the desired results.

The measures taken recently for the large-scale release of workers very clearly showed the state's inability either to defend from the administration's arbitrariness those laid off, or to provide them with equivalent work, or to organize retraining for them. As a rule, they have dumped women with children and people near pension age.

The present job placement bureaus must be the main centers to implement employment policy. Again there are questions and serious problems. Today the activity of placement "offices" does not stand up to any criticism. One wonders what sort of "placement" we are talking about when a plant recruits a person and then states after the event that the bureau assisted it in this?

Who is formulating the State Employment Program? Those who yesterday hindered the "Shchekino method," who unleashed on our heads a deluge of statistics proving that we have no unemployment. A. Kotlyar was not the only person to go wrong....

Today we are reaping the bitter fruits of the policy of "overmanning" which those who formulated the Employment Program were implementing only recently. The certainty that no one would be without work led to a decline in discipline. Loss of work time last year alone, according to Goskomstat figures, amounted to more than 40 million man-days. One more consequence of "overmanning" is enterprise leaders' lack of interest in improving labor conditions and introducing new technology. Today 70 percent of those employed in the national economy are manual workers. One in three jobs does not accord with sanitary-hygiene norms. No less than R2 billion rubles is spent annually because of accidents, injuries, and job-related illnesses. Every enterprise has a hidden supply of manpower. According to specialist assessments, it amounts to 10 percent.

Departmental diktat, sector interests, and major shortcomings in investment policy have led to the formation of areas of surplus manpower. For instance, in the autonomous republics in the south of Russia the number of unemployed often approaches 50 percent. Invalids have been forgotten—only 26 percent of them have been placed in jobs. Two million women would like to work in production units with flexible working arrangements and a shortened working day. But where are such production units?

The Employment Program is not ahead of schedule. We are at least 10 years behind on it. Now only public monitoring of the work on the Employment Program will help to avoid mistakes and to put barriers in the way of those who are not averse to "painting a rosy picture." Society must demand to abandon decisions which put in doubt socialism's main achievement—the right to work. Let us be vigilant. Perestroyka, alas, is rich in rash "formulas" which have already been turned against the working people, and this means also against perestroyka itself.

Veterans Appeal for End to 'Negative Processes'

PM2603114990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Mar 90 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Veterans' Appeal"]

[Text] A plenum of the All-Union Council of War and Labor Veterans has adopted an appeal to the CPSU Central Committee "On the Draft CPSU Central Committee Platform for the 28th Party Congress."

It specifically says:

The draft CPSU Central Committee Platform for the 28th party congress was welcomed with profound interest by the older generations. It can provide the basis for a broad debate within the party and society.

Sincere concern for the future of perestroyka, the party, and the country prompts us to express support for the policy of renewing society's life and, at the same time, to bluntly and honestly voice our concern about the numerous negative processes occurring today. It is time to openly admit that forces opposing socialism are at work in the country. They are making attempts to come to power.

Now there is a real need to reduce the duration of the transitional period and to satisfy the urgent needs of people and pensioners, especially war veterans and rear services workers, more quickly, better, and in deeds rather than in words.

The appeal expresses a principled stand on questions of the strengthening of the federation, the socialist restructuring of the economy, the deepening of democracy, and the renewal of the party; it rejects attempts to loosen the Leninist principle of the party's ideological unity and protests against attempts to revise the results of World War II.

The veterans have stood and will continue to stand firmly on the positions of society's socialist renewal, the appeal says.

Soyuz Group Leader on 'Conservative' Aims

PM2303132590 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Mar 90 Second Edition p 2

[Interview with USSR People's Deputy G.A. Komarov by N. Garifullina: "Common Anxiety About the Future of the Union"]

[Text] A new deputies' group—"Soyuz"—proudly announced itself at the Third Congress of USSR People's Deputies. G.A. Komarov, member of the group council presidium and one of its organizers, spoke on its behalf at the third session. Today Georgiy Alekseyevich talks with our correspondent.

[Garifullina] Georgiy Alekseyevich, how did the idea of getting together arise, and what is the aim of your "Soyuz?"

[Komarov] When the idea arose and who thought of it is hard to say, but that is not the point. The supercharged situation in a number of republics, in particular the Baltic republics, made us step up our action. USSR people's deputies Viktor Alksnis, Yevgeniy Kogan, and other comrades from the Baltic republics tried to set up the group at the second congress. By the start of this session concern about the situation in all the national republics, including Russia, had increased dramatically. Separatist manifestations and nationalist actions are gathering momentum. Nationalist slogans and statements are becoming increasingly prominent at numerous rallies in various republics. Extremely concerned about this, the people's deputies are seeking consolidation on the positions of internationalism. It seems to me that we are only just beginning to understand the depth and scale of the growing danger. Destructive forces pursuing very definite political goals are striving harder and harder to destabilize a situation that is already beset by economic failures: our boat is rocking and shipping water right and left. Separatism and nationalism are sad realities. What is happening in Lithuania is an extreme expression of these processes. In principle, the situation is developing in accordance with the same scenario in Estonia and Latvia, and something similar can be observed in the Transcaucasus. Many would have it that the nationalist card has not been played in the Baku events, but unfortunately that is not the case.

There is a growing desire among the deputies to counter the nationalist trends with internationalism and, on that basis, to unite not only the deputies but our voters as well. Initially we received around 130 applications, but already more than 300 deputies have expressed a desire to work in "Soyuz." We worked out a platform prior to the congress, but, of course, it will require further amplification and concretization.

[Garifullina] But, obviously, you can talk about your main goals.

[Komarov] We are regarded in various ways: sometimes people even try to portray our group as the conservative, apparatus group in the body of deputies. One can see the purpose of this—to discredit it in the public's eyes, since certain forces apparently feel that there is now a counterweight to them, and a significant one at that. It is a fact that we occupy centrist positions, but historical experience teaches that the centrist position is the most productive and necessary in critical situations, in an atmosphere of instability.

Our opponents, incidentally, object: But what are you actually trying to preserve? Something that has already collapsed? We do not accept that viewpoint. The country has indeed reached the point where disintegration begins, but we want to prevent it. We are waiting and hoping that all who cherish the Fatherland will be with us. Above all in tackling the most pressing problems.

Let us consider the situation in Lithuania. Yes, the republic's secession from the USSR was declared at the congress, in the form of an ultimatum, in fact. But did Lithuania declare it? Let us look. It was declared by the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet. When we analyzed the entire picture we found that it represented predominantly the interests of "Sajudis." Some 41.2 percent of the electorate is behind the Supreme Soviet, but even fewer are behind "Sajudis": only 30.4 percent. It is perfectly clear that it has no right to speak for the entire Lithuanian people, let alone for the entire population of Lithuania. Deputy Viktor Alksnis gave a good account of this at the congress, describing this "apportionment." But even in this 41.2 percent of the population by no means everyone supports the idea of separation from the USSR.

[Garifullina] We are familiar with the results of a sociological survey carried out in Lithuania around four months ago. Some 70 percent of those surveyed were quite definite in their support for socialism. And, as we know, by no means all the communists joined the independent Lithuanian Communist Party.

[Komarov] Quite true. But to get back to the elections, there were violations then and pressure on voters. And "Sajudis" got only 30.4 percent of the vote, so the separation declaration was on behalf of less than one-third of the population of Lithuania. This is a patent violation of human rights. Incidentally, these rights are also being violated in some other republics, which have adopted, for example, very peculiar state language laws. Given the undoubted right of all peoples to develop their own culture, traditions, and languages—and we share this view—such questions must be tackled calmly and without too much fuss, and, above all, no language qualification should be introduced. Our deputies' group advocates equality of the state (or official, the name does not matter) language of the USSR and the state language of the republic. One must act on the basis of expediency, without offending people. In a civilized society, even if there is only one person who does not understand a language, it is usual to speak in the language that everyone understands. It is a question of basic manners—at any rate, that is the accepted practice all over the world. I was in France recently, at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. We were amazed by its polyglot membership and the fact that they switch from French to English and vice versa—that is, it is all dictated by expediency.

[Garifullina] And not by arrogance?

[Komarov] Indeed not. It is not by arrogance, nor by ethnic conceit, and certainly not by orders and laws that people should be encouraged to respect, value, and master a language. Perhaps we should provide material incentives for language knowledge among workers in the services, trade, and medical spheres. Another question is: What has prevented us in the past from organizing the study of ethnic languages in kindergartens, schools, and so on? Nothing! The work takes trouble and effort, and it has not been done. Now language questions have become a big political issue for those who are using all the media to kindle interethnic strife and destabilize the situation in the country. Refugees are the end result of a long and cunning chain forged by these very forces.

What is happening, then? Russian refugees from Baku are currrently living in barracks. Everyone knows that it is temporary accommodation and hopes that they will return to their apartments and their work, but they do not want to return. And they are certainly entitled to seek protection from the republic to which they are ethnnically affiliated—Russia.

The main thrust of "Soyuz's" activity is the priority of human rights and equal and free development for all citizens throughout the country's territory, irrespective of nationality, language, or religion, of how long they have been on the particular territory, or of political beliefs. We will encourage the adoption of legislative acts guaranteeing observance of these rights and monitor the effect of laws safeguarding them.

[Garifulliona] What actions have you managed to take so far?

[Komarov] Our group actively supported the introduction of the institution of the presidency, since it is one of his duties to ensure the observance of human rights. It will aid the president in this. We sent a letter to the congress, as a result of which it was decided to instruct the Constitutional Oversight Committee to examine whether legislative acts adopted in various republics between 1988 and 1990 accord with the USSR Constitution and the Declaration of Human Rights. If the committee finds any discrimination against human rights in the laws, it will be able to abolish them....

[Garifullina] Georgiy Alekseyevich, at sessions in the Baltic republics decisions have been made whereby the Constitutional Oversight Committee's jurisdiction does not extend to their territory.

[Komarov] Once again, this legislation contradicts the USSR Constitution.

[Garifullina] And not only Soviet legislation, but international law as well. To be honest, what surprises me is the following. We have seen the USSR Supreme Soviet adopt so many resolutions abolishing laws tending to infringe civil rights. And? People's Deputy Ye. Kogan was absolutely correct when he said at the congress that the local legislator just "cocks an ear and carries on eating."

[Komarov] That is why we need a president. If one of the union republics issues a normative act disavowing a Supreme Soviet resolution or union law, the president must step in. Yes, we have pluralism of opinions, but it must be constructive, and, of course, we must use every available method to combat those who preach evil, violence, and discrimination against people. Democracy must be able to defend itself. Therefore, it is stated in our platform that "Soyuz" will give every assistance in strengthening the Armed Forces, the KGB, and the Internal Affairs Ministry. Bear this in mind: The army has now come under fire, but there is a well-known saying: A people that does not love its own army is feeding someone else's. In fact, what is the army? It is our children, those who are defending the people's peaceful labor. Unfortunately, the army is still necessary, although, obviously, in a difficult economic situation its upkeep imposes a strain and it would be better to reduce it as much as possible.... Our deputies' group believes that the army and the state security and internal affairs organs must be protected from attacks. We have to defend ourselves too. "Soyuz" has only just been created, yet people are already saying: You are trying to put chains on the peoples just to preserve the federation. Yes, we are upholding the principle of the federative state system, but it must be an overhauled federation.

[Garifullina] But what is criminal about your group's wanting to preserve the country's integrity and unity? I have seen "Soyuz's" mail: people of different nationalities in all the republics are not asking for, but demanding the salvation of the Fatherland and the defense of unity. Letters to our editorial office say the same.

[Komarov] Good heavens, we are not afraid of being called conservatives. In our view, separatist sentiments must be instilling more fear at the moment, because the secession of one republic from the union would affect not only the future of the people living in it, but all peoples and the entire country. I mean, in Lithuania there are dozens of union industrial enterprises and international collectives; they are human beings, our people, Soviet people! The deputies' group is currently making an effort to ensure the speediest adoption of a Law on the Procedure for Secession from the USSR. We believe that every people and every republic has that right. However, it can only exercise that right on the basis of a law that defines the whole secession "technology," if one can put it like that.

[Garifullina] What kind of separation mechanism should we have, in your view?

[Komarov] First, the process should be a gradual one, not instant. The republic must determine very clearly, in respect of every person, whether he accepts the decision, those who dissent must be recorded not quantitatively, "in toto," but by name, and every person must be provided for. The republic must care: It must acquire or build proper accommodation for that person which is at least no worse than the accommodation he had, make up for all the moral and material costs he has borne, through investment in the development of the republic's production, science, and culture, compensate for all the expense, and only then, when the person is satisfied, can we consider that the separating republic has not violated human rights.

Not only must human beings be protected, but we are simply obliged to defend the rights, honor, and dignity of those who paid for their country's freedom with their lives. As we are talking about human rights again, I will touch on another sphere of "Soyuz's" activity. For instance, why am I, chairman of the subcommittee on ecology, actively working in the group? Because ecological questions are closely associated with human rights today. Everyone has the right to a decent environment and this is being flouted everywhere at the moment. Our group is struggling, therefore, to give ecological laws priority over economic laws.

[Garifullina] Who is "Soyuz" cooperating with?

[Komarov] We will continue to seek a common language with other deputies' groups, including the interregionals, and with all formal and informal organizations, movements, and any church or religion—Muslim, Christian, Catholic, and so on. Let us cooperate in areas that will bring us closer together. We are interested in contacts with international organizations and compatriots abroad, with all the forces contributing to the strengthening of the union of socialist republics.

My father, a frontline veteran, left me a strong, properly defended country. I have a moral responsibility to him for what kind of country we pass on to our children. We all have a responsibility to the past and to the future. Those who share our anxiety for the future of the union must act decisively and in a concerted fashion today.

Writer Emphasizes Socialism's Human Element

PM1303162690 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 90 Second Edition p 3

[Vladimir Kornilov article under the rubric "A Writer's Thoughts": "On the Human Element in Man"]

[Excerpts] Kostroma—[passage omitted] Our society is not fated (fortunately!) to repeat the tragic times of Stalin, the political voluntarism of Khrushchev, or the stagnant indifference of Brezhnev. Society has moved on, it has left behind the potential for that, it is now living in different dimensions, with a different attitude to life. Furthermore, every political structure always has its roots in millenia of tradition in the people's life, with its age-old creative labor and its feats of arms, out of which, in fact, the history of the Fatherland and the dignity of the people are formed.

In the division of minds and aspirations that has arisen, everyone defends his own interpretation of perestroyka. Some, rejecting the revolution and the efforts of previous generations to create a socialist society, hastily and insistently point to the rich, well-provided West and call for the complete abandonment of their fathers' deeds and a return to capitalism, where satiety and ease are to be had.

Others, looking doubtfully on the eye-catching, tempting Western store windows full of meat and sausages, aware of the soulless machinery for extracting this wealth from people's labor that has been created and is in operation behind those store windows, and recognizing that man cannot live by sausage alone, restrain the impulses of alluring sentiment and reject what mankind has tried before, although it is still in existence. They consider it possible to continue to seek ways of implementing the socialist idea in an interpretation illuminated by time and experience, taking into account the changed conditions in the life of the world community.

The West today, as I see it, has softened considerably in comparison with the days of the original bloodthirsty accumulation of riches. The surplus of resources accumulated has enabled it, without changing its capitalist nature, to become, so to speak, rather more liberal, as can be seen both from the availability of wealth in society and from the charitable activity of certain humanitarian millionaires.

On the whole, however, it seems to me, the West is oriented in its liberalization primarily toward the satisfaction of man's **biological** needs. A man who has a job and is able to work extremely intensively is provided by the capitalist employer with full supplies of food, clothing, comfortable housing, and all kinds of entertainments, plus so-called personal freedom. [passage omitted]

Our own experience has not yet produced the anticipated results in terms of people's material security; this was due to both objective and subjective factors, and also, the dangers inherent in a divided world constantly affected and still affect our development.

All the same, we have the first experience of establishing man as a social being. This experience lies both in the destinies of our fathers, for whom the cause of revolution was the meaning of life, and in the committed patriotism of my generation, which consciously put a higher value on the attainment of a common victory over fascism than on their own lives.

When I read the so-called "Democratic Platform" for the 28th CPSU Congress published by a group of party members, my attention as a writer was attracted by one provision that relates directly to the subject of my reflections. This "platform" proposes a radical revision of the idea of "the paramountcy of social interests over personal interests and international over national interests."

If you ask me, this "radical revision" can only be seen as an attempt to bring us to a standstill on the path to socialism, facing backward.

What does the "Democratic Platform" propose? That one's own, personal interests should be placed higher than other people's interests and the interests of one's own nation put above the interests of other nations. But this has happened before! Mankind has felt the bloody breath of national egotism. Hitlerite fascism not only tried to return mankind to slavery, but also created an industry of the destruction of other peoples—both in the battlefields and in the ovens of Mauthausen, Auschwitz, and Dachau. The idea of putting the national above the international cost 50 million human lives. So are the creators of the "Democratic Platform" now proposing that the possibility of another bloody experiment be installed in people's minds?

The human meaning of the socialist idea is precisely that of raising man to a higher degree of humanity and establishing man as a being that is **social** in consciousness, conviction, and behavior and is oriented toward selfless intercourse with other people and collective creativity.

What will happen to our society if everyone puts his own personal interests above the common interest? If everyone starts to live according to the laws of his own capricious "I want?" If I want to, I'll go to work, if I don't want to, I won't stand at the machine tool and turn out a component that is needed not by me, but by someone else. Let a crowd form at the bus stop—the driver has driven his bus to the river and is sitting there fishing: Well, his personal interest ranks above the needs of the people who are waiting for him at the bus stop!

The experience of the past shows that, since prehistoric times, the most viable tribes and communities were those where the interest of the tribe, the common interest, ranked higher than the interests of the individual. Such communities, and later societies, were incomparably better at resolving the need for life support and defense.

In the socialist society man correlates his own interests with social needs and places them above personal motives. The human element in man is only affirmed when he shows concern for other people's interests and needs.

Incidentally, if you look at the private farming system [fermerskoye khozyaystvo] that is now being vigorously touted not from the angle of economic advantage, but from the human viewpoint (with a view to historical elevation to the status of man as a social being) and compare it with, say, the kolkhoz (collective farm) system, it is not immediately apparent which way of life does most to further human development. The kolkhoz, for all its organizational and management absurdities, established and preserves the mentality of collectivism—labor in communication, before each other's eyes. Even given people's present passivity, caused by many years of the state structures' interference by edict, this shared form of economic management not only produces output, but engenders a social mentality in man. The private farming system is the isolated little world of the farm, and here the link with society is only through the market. In time, the narrowness of interests inevitably generates an individualistic mentality in peasant farmers, which will not, in my view, be a step forward in the development of the human personality. And are we not taking a step backward toward the individualistic social formation from which we departed for the sake of the human development of man?

Our society is reminiscent today of an angry family in which consensus has been disrupted. In the implacability of real and imagined grievances, we blame everyone and everything: our past, our party, the very idea of socialism. Furthermore, all kinds of well-wishers appeal to national feelings and try to persuade us that our common affairs cannot, after all, be put to rights, that the old ideals are obsolete, and that it is time to disperse to our various national apartments and organize our own lives in our own corners, and let them out there, in the country, grapple with ideas and agonize over common affairs—we will look after our own interests!

I remember how, when, as a 20-year-old war cripple, I returned home, to my village, and, in the sleepless nights, wore myself out with thoughts of the injustices of life, my mom came to my room silently and sat on the bed. In torment, I asked her:

"Mom! Tell me, where does evil come from in life?!"

After a long silence, I heard her quiet voice:

"I don't know how to answer you, son. I only know one thing for sure: Grief comes from people who don't think about others...."

My friend Yatsenko, a Ukrainian, lies forever in the ground near Moscow. My legs, which were torn off by an exploding shell, are buried in Belorussian soil. Near Shyaulyay, among the Lithuanian forests, is the grave of our political leader, Leyzerovich, a Jew. The Kazakh Zhimbiyev is buried in Prussian soil near Koenigsberg. That is only a tiny handful of people from our regiment, out of the millions of soldiers of the Great Patriotic War. Each had his home, his family, his native land. All the same, every one of them rose up and left his home to defend the Fatherland common to us all.

My mom did not say anything about socialism or fascism. She only said that grief comes from those who do not think about others. But I think her words contained a great thought that lives on in me to this day: the thought of the human element in man.

KGB Official Discusses Economic Sabotage

90UN1159A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Mar 90 p 2

[Report on interview with A. Ovidiyev, chief of the KGB Counterintelligence Department, by (?B.) Dyunin: "Through Malicious Intent or by Mistake?"]

[Text] **A. Ovidiyev, chief of the Counterintelligence Department of the USSR KGB, answers a question from reader N. Perfilyev.**

[Dyunin] Aleksandr Sergeyevich! Here we have this letter. Nikolay Perfilyev introduces himself as a young tool-maker from Perm, from Motovilikha of defense fame. He wants to know whether there is any sabotage in our country. This is how he explains his question: On the one hand, God forbid that we have any; on the other, we could write off every problem as sabotage.

[A. Ovidiyev] In my line of duty I do not treat this problem as emotionally. Let me define my position for you. Our department deals with especially dangerous crimes in the field of state economy. These crimes are solved and some of them are made known to the public. Your newspaper covers them, too. But in our capacity as KGB officials we have not sent a single sabotage case to court. Most often the crimes with elements of sabotage in them are qualified as embezzlement, negligence, or abuse of official position for monetary and other gains.

[Dyunin] Meanwhile, people grow more and more suspicious; they ask if it is possible that some dozens or hundreds of people are trying to "spite" Soviet power, prompted from "over there" or, more realistically, due to their own convictions.

[A. Ovidiyev] What do I think about that? From the point of view of the sabotage "theory" I, for instance, studied world systems of supplying perishable foods, including vegetables, to big cities. And the system of supplying Moscow with fruits and vegetables gives me, as a citizen, the impression that it was invented with the purpose of doing damage. Let us look at Prague. They have only two wholesale produce facilities, but both of them have modern, sophisticated equipment. The fruits and vegetables are moved by a high-speed conveyor from the producer straight to the customer. Everything is fresh, everything comes on time, and the storage facilities are only needed to keep reserves for all kinds of unpredictable events.

[Dyunin] Yes, this is something to envy. But our Moscow storage facilities are, to me, the end product of stupidity. It is rather hard to imagine that for dozens of years somebody has been trying to harm the people of Moscow with rotten tomatoes.

[A. Ovidiyev] Even though one of the managers of the Dzerzhinskaya produce storage facility was executed for his crimes. Think of the hundreds of unloaded railroad cars; goods that everybody needs do not get distributed. What should we think of that? Or take this information in your paper: There is a shortage of sausage in Moscow but many stores refuse to receive shipments of it. How should we treat this?

[Dyunin] Our newspaper has found out what happened: The sausage reserves were being distributed without thought. However, the Ministry of Trade would not tell us how this situation arose. But what about pure sabotage? Acts of economic subversion?

[A. Ovidiyev] I think we have already sunk that low as well. Remember the infamous Uzbek cotton case? You can see basic symptoms of sabotage in the actions of some of those people. Or take, for instance, the present situation at our meat-processing factories. Certain people, in whose interests it is to create a "shadow economy" in the food industry, are trying to turn everything upside down. Most of the animals that arrive at these factories are hungry, exhausted, unkempt, and in a terrible stressed state. We just put them out of their misery and lose many hundreds of tons of meat in this way. There are many people who have a vested interest in this economic mess: The worse it is for us, the customers, the better it is for them in the meat-processing factories.

However, for us to uncover the hand of a deliberate saboteur in the midst of this economic chaos, anarchy, and irresponsibility, we need to design a precise judicial mechanism.

[Dyunin] This gives rise to two questions, at least. Maybe we should not be looking for a specific enemy; maybe he does not exist and what does exist is a worthless system. Many economists, by the way, are of the same opinion; a system where property belongs to no one in particular does not allow for any serious talk of personal responsibility. Second, why design a "precise judicial mechanism" for uncovering saboteurs? Do we not have one?

[A. Ovidiyev] Every socioeconomic system engenders legislation meant to protect the system from criminal designs. The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] penal code, in particular, protects the Soviet public and government structure, socialist property, individuals, and their civil rights. The scientists who suggest replacing the "worthless system" are also asked to consider how to replace the legislation that protects it. Meanwhile, we, the law-enforcement officials, are guided by our present criminal codes. According to law, punishment cannot be meted out to an abstract system, but is applied to specific individuals guilty of illegal actions. To blame everything on the system means to encourage crime and to destroy the principle of unavoidable punishment. It was not the Uzbek nation or our system that was to blame for what happened in Uzbekistan, for instance. The blame was specifically on Rashidov, Usmankhodzhayev, Adylov, and others.

As for the second part of your question, it brings us to the core of our conversation—sabotage and judicial norms. We have had some cases which had a sabotage coloring to them. They had the object and the subject of the crime; there was evidence of malicious intent with the special purpose of weakening the Soviet state, directed against the Soviet economy and against the people. But the tragedy of the situation lies in our incapability of proving the presence of malicious intent and the design of sabotage, given the limits of our present jurisprudence.

Take, for instance, the notorious "gold case" covered in a series of articles by SOTCIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA, which, as our readers know, became the basis for your newspaper. By the way, do you consider yourself the legal successor of INDUSTRIYA?

[Dyunin] Strictly speaking, the new organ evidently cannot consider itself the legal successor. But as for the "gold case" and its lobbyists, the journalists are not going to beat a retreat. This is a very painful sore. Here is what we should not forget: The correct decisions were adopted at the highest level but somebody consistently ignored them. Listen to this: The first decision was taken to build a new state-run mine at the site of one of the richest gold deposits in the north. It did not get built. A second, similar decision was adopted as a means of control. The mine still was not built. But then the "telephone law" became active and after the very first call all the formalities just disappeared. A gold-mining artel was formed and started to dig for gold at double speed. These "telephone" forces have not been eliminated yet. The gold is being smuggled abroad as before. What are the channels for it?

[A. Ovidiyev] I have familiarized myself with the "gold case" and in many of its facets it looked like sabotage. There is the object of the crime: the gold-mining industry, which is so important for the economy and for the well-being of the people. There are the subjects of the crime: specific individuals who were trying to undermine the industry. And they were not only hurting the industry; they were also wasting people's property; they were turning beautiful nature into a wretched hole; they left the richest of minerals abandoned forever in the ground; they ruined people's lives. Nobody denies any of this now. There has even been a decision of the CPSU Central Committee on this. But there is one very important element missing. If we do not find it we cannot prove all this to be sabotage. What element? It is malicious intent and the special aim of damaging the Soviet state. For that reason the entire case fell apart into dozens and hundreds of separate criminal cases of official and economic crimes against socialist property, etc. That is why some people got off so lightly.

Try to prove the presence of malicious intent, i.e. conscious attempt directed at ruining the government, given the limits of our legislation. I dug a hole under a house and now it is ready to collapse. I was caught red-handed and told that I would have to answer for it. And I say to this: Yes, I dug a hole but it was not through any malicious intent. Should we try to prove what he was thinking digging that hole under our house? Maybe we just need to check his sanity.

We have some support in our jurisprudence—Article 64 of the RSFSR penal code on spying does not require any proof of the special aim of treason. If you used a secret hiding place, or handed over important classified information, if you caused some objective damage to the country and its state independence, or its territorial sovereignty, or its military power, you have to answer for this. The intent is clear without any admission of it. It is also clear in cases of economic subversion. And the legislators have to reflect this through jurisprudence.

Imagine that we recently sold our stock-breeding horses and sold them for a song. What is it—criminal negligence? Or perhaps malicious intent to cause losses to the country? Let us go back to the "gold affair." How were their forces arranged, according to the press? They were former criminals, people with murder and robbery on their conscience. They created entire "untouchable" groups who exploited the artel workers and the state; they corrupted everyone around. The strategy of their vicious actions was not aimed just at getting rich, but at the destruction of the hard currency mechanism of the country. I have seen such people. But it is impossible to prove them saboteurs. How can you prove malicious intent? If they confess something today, they will deny the same in court tomorrow. Foreign special services discovered the true nature of some former gold mine leaders long before our own Themis did. Those services reached out to them and got understanding in response. The services put their stakes on them and today the stakes are being paid. The law says we have to prove malicious intent. Our jurisprudence is slipping. Criminals are assured of their impunity and that breeds a whole chain of actions detrimental to society.

Our press wrote a lot about the barbaric flooding of the Krasnoyarskaya GES [hydroelectric power station] reservoir. It is an old story but it continues today—note the flooding of the Boguchanskaya GES basin. We talked about this before the flooding. Nothing can compensate for the most valuable forests that will be covered by the water. But it had already been decided to go ahead with the flooding. Who can assure me that this decision does not conceal malicious intent and that it is not related to those decisions which have brought our country to the verge of a catastrophe?

I repeat that it is impossible to prove the presence of malicious intent. But the results are more than realistic. They are evident in the economy, ecology, and foreign trade, as well as in the state of the society in general. Recall, for instance, the poisoning of soil with insecticides, or the superconcentration of harmful industries in certain cities of the Urals and Siberia. Somebody decided on all of that. Who can assure me that he was deciding that without the intent of damaging Soviet authority and the prestige of socialism? Nobody can. And real life.... What made possible such cities as Norilsk, Krasnoyarsk, Nizhniy Tagil, Magnitigorsk, where children are now born with defects? Who was it who planned the production there? How did it happen? The names of these people must be known, but according to our norms an attempt to prove their guilt will be treated as slander, especially with our rules when every current criminal document bears dozens of signatures. As the result, nobody is guilty of anything. They blame the system, the administrative machine, etc. No, crime should be personalized.

What have we done to our foreign trade? Take our forests, for example. We cut the trees down, saw them into boards, load them on foreign ships in Archangel and they pay us back by sending saws—more machines for the destruction of forests. With their saws we cut trees even faster and they send us even more sophisticated means to ruin our natural resources. The circle is widening all the time. And somebody is lining his pockets on all of it. The gas situation is the same. We provide them with gas, they send us pipes and compressors. They use the gas for mass production of consumer goods and we sell the gas for the pipes. Is this not sabotage, this kind of attitude to the people's property? Or take Hammer's ammonium products pipeline. Who approved this project? If something happens to it, it will surely beat Chernobyl. The people of nearby villages go to bed wearing gas masks; they live in fear of any dark cloud. This whole thing is just a mine set under a huge territory. Who can assure me that the mine was set without malicious intent? Those who took this decision had the power and the means to check it out and to find some safer versions of the transporting system, if we need it at all. Why did they ignore the people, the prosperous area, and now offer a desert to our children and grandchildren?

[Dyunin] Where is the way out, then, Aleksandr Sergeyevich? In our everyday reasoning we assume that the police will manage the routine shady dealings, but it is for the KGB to cope with the large ones. The KGB people are doing something somewhere in secret and that is good as long as they do not bother us.

[A. Ovidiyev] Exactly. Karl Marx used to say that secrecy is the favorite daughter of bureaucracy. We should fight against bureaucracy and against secrecy, too, within reasonable limits. I will say to everyone who cherishes our motherland: Put your trust in the KGB but keep your powder dry. It is not rose petals that we are digging into, so let us dig together.

Our parliament is now discussing the need for a law on the KGB. I personally think that such a law is quite necessary. We benefit from any wise law. But let us not forget that it is not only for the committee and its officials to provide state security. If we are becoming real masters of our country, then each of us should be responsible for its security within the limits of his rank.

It is not only my opinion that there is a critical need for a law on state security. It has to declare, in black and white, that every citizen is responsible for the security of the Soviet state. If somebody flooded the land with a "man-made sea," let him answer for this; if he poisoned the soil, let him answer; if he designed something wrong, or invested money wrong, if he caused some irreparable damage, let him answer. Enough of looking for nothing but ideology in sabotage. Everybody knows his actions and let everybody answer for himself according to the law.

'Espionage' Case of V. Potashov Described

90UI0418A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 10, 10-16 Mar 90 p 7

[Unattributed article: "Sentenced to 13 Years"]

[Text] **As announced at a recent briefing by a USSR KGB spokesman, some people in the West name a certain V. Potashov as being among Soviet political prisoners. In reality V. Potashov, a former employee of a USSR Academy of Sciences institute, is a disclosed CIA agent.**

At the request of ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, Lieutenant Colonel A. Efremov, a Soviet counterintelligence officer, told us about Potashov's case.

It is true that the mass media of the United States, England, France, and other countries, with the support of certain Western circles, are continuing their campaign about the problem of "political prisoners" in the USSR. The name of Potashov is also on this list.

Representatives of our country, including those at the highest level, have stated more than once that not a single person in the USSR is in prison for his convictions. Potashov is not such a person either.

In 1981 Victor Potashov, a researcher at the United States of America and Canada Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, was attached as a trainee at the Soviet Embassy in Washington. The 30- year old researcher, a candidate of sciences, specialized in military-political problems and was already well-known to his American colleagues.

As evidenced by materials of an investigation carried out by the USSR KGB Investigation Department, Potashov met with former U.S. Secretary of Defense G. Brown in Washington and asked him to set up a meeting with U.S. special services officers. Potashov signed an agreement at that meeting with the American intelligence officers promising him a monetary reward for the information he could gather in his line of duty and hand over to the CIA. Later he had secret meetings with CIA and FBI officials W. Blackman and a certain Al, Dick, and Charles in a Washington hotel and also in train compartments during his trips around the United States. At those meetings he received special spy training; he was taught how to code and decipher agents' information, how to use cryptography, and also how to receive information transmitted by the American intelligence center. The CIA displayed considerable interest in data on USSR strategic potential, in the Soviet Government position on arms reduction and limitation, and in the materials the United States of America and Canada Institute was preparing for the leaders of the country.

After he returned to Moscow, Potashov continued preparing and mailing abroad cryptographic messages with classified data which, as analyzed by the experts, contained military and official secrets. American intelligence officers assigned to the Moscow embassy twice left secret parcels with money for Potashov. The parcels also contained instructions for spying and collecting new information.

However, Potashov was not able to send his latest intelligence report because he was arrested by Soviet counterintelligence officers on 1 July 1986. He was tried by a military tribunal of the Moscow Military District and admitted having committed an especially dangerous state crime because of greed. The court was shown numerous pieces of evidence—an entire arsenal of espionage equipment given him by the CIA. The court also heard witnesses. In June of 1987 Potashov was sentenced to 13 years deprivation of freedom.

Komsomol Discusses Membership Situation

LD2303230490 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1640 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Report by Galina Vinitskaya and Aleskandr Budris]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 23 Mar—[passage omitted] As has been noted in the speeches of the plenum participants, the Komsomol is in a critical situation right before its congress. The youth league membership has fallen from 38 million to 31 million people over the past two years. In Lithuania a split in the Komsomol has occurred into two communist unions, one of which is still part of the VLKSM [All-Union Komsomol]. In Georgia, leaders of a number of informal organizations have issued the ultimatum to the Central Committee of the republic's VLKSM that it should cease to exist and that the Georgian Komsomol should be disbanded. Speaking at the plenum, Viktor Mironenko noted that the upcoming congress must determine whether the youth league is to be consolidated on democratic and socialist positions or whether confrontation is to exacerbate among young people. In the opinion of the VLKSM leader, the union is to stay "Leninist" and "communist," for this is the essence of the union and its adherence to certain convictions. [passage omitted]

Change of Name for Komsomol Advocated

PM2303110790 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 90 p 2

[Article by S. Stupar, delegate to the 21st Komsomol Congress and junior scientific staffer of the Komsomol Central Committee Higher Komsomol School Scientific Research Center: "What Should We Now Be Called?"]

[Text] It is now clear that there is going to be a discussion about changing the name of the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] at the 21st Komsomol Congress.

There are two points of view on the Komsomol's future:

The Komsomol will be maintained in its present form, after adopting a more democratic statute and action program.

The Komsomol will be radically changed and essentially become a totally new organization or movement based on principles different from those on which the Komsomol is presently based.

Hence the argument about the league's name.

Even the draft CPSU Central Committee Platform for the 28th congress makes no reference to the word "communism," and the building of democratic socialism is the party's proclaimed objective.

The only real alternative to the old name would be a name which accords with the organization's program objectives, and the task now is to build democratic socialism. So the most suitable names would be these, for example: the Socialist Youth League or the Democratic Youth League. Reflecting the league's general strategic objective, these names make it possible to unite a broad range of youth organizations with different ideological and theoretical views—from Christian Democrats to anarchosyndicalists—in one movement.

Assessing the situation realistically, you realize that to retain the old name would eventually lead to a complete loss of faith in the Komsomol among young people and increase its negative image in society.

Academy of Sciences Rehabilitates Stalin Victims

LD2203212790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Today the annual general meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences began considering scientific and organizational questions. [passage omitted] At the evening session the participants in the annual general meeting paid their profound respects to the shining memory of innocent scientists who perished during the period of Stalin's regime and to the victims of illegality. The meeting decided to posthumously reinstate in the Academy's membership over 40 scientists who were expelled from it without justification, and over the next few years to erect a memorial on the grounds of the Presidium's headquarters on Lenin Prospekt. Tomorrow the meeting will continue its work.

Sakharov, Zhores Medvedev Material Printed

LD2103173990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0130 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The third issue of the Leningrad magazine ZVEZDA has come out. Here the publication of works by Andrey Dmitriyevich Sakharov is being completed, which are brought together under the general heading of "Peace, Progress, Human Rights." This is the main subject of the reflections of the outstanding scientist, the outstanding humanist. The March issue of ZVEZDA contains in particular the article "The Danger of a Thermonuclear War," "Memoir to Brezhnev," and a number of speeches, including those made at the First Congress of USSR People's Deputies. Also published is the draft constitution of our country on which Andrey Dmitriyevich Sakharov worked in the last months of his life.

The fate of Andrey Dmitriyevich Sakharov did to a certain extent have something in common with the fate of Zhores Aleksandrovich Medvedev who was referred to as dissident No.1. Now he lives in the West. He is well known there both as a scholar and as a current affairs journalist, the author of books, one of which is on the subject "The Human Rights Struggle." The magazine has printed the account by Zhores Aleksandr Medvedev of his life.

LITERATURNAYA GAZETA Approves New Editor

90UN1237A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 12, 21 Mar 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the LG Editorial Office"]

[Text] On 15 March the secretariat of the board of the USSR Union of Writers approved F. Burlatskiy as editor-in-chief of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.

On 19 March there was a general meeting of the workers of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. Speaking to the collective were V. Karpov, first secretary of the board of the USSR Union of Writers, and S. Zalygin, member of the bureau of the secretariat of the board of the USSR Union of Writers. They thanked Yu. Voronov for his work in the post of the newspaper's editor-in-chief from which he had been relieved at his own request because of his health, and wished F. Burlatskiy and the entire editorial collective, fruitful, creative activity. Yu. Voronov and F. Burlatskiy also spoke.

Present at the meeting was A. Degtyarev, the first deputy chief of the ideological division of the CPSU Central Committee, V. Yegorov, deputy chief of the ideological division of the CPSU Central Committee, and Yu. Verchenko, secretary of the board of the USSR Union of Writers.

Property Compensation for Refugees Discussed

LD2203131690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0430 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] We are continuing our discussion of the problems of refugees in our country. Yesterday we spoke about the setting up of a department of migration and resettlement at the USSR Goskomtrud [State Committee for Labor and Social Problems]. It has prepared a draft decision of the USSR Council of Ministers on providing aid to citizens forced to leave the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic and Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. Our correspondent Tatyana Korupayeva's conversation with (Petr Sergeyevich Rudev), chief of the department of migration and resettlement of the USSR Goskomtrud, is about the size of compensation, the problems of paying it to refugees.

[Begin Rudev recording] To date, we have submitted a draft decision to the government which combines and brings the compensation of citizens, both for lost housing and for other property which they left in their former places of abode, into a unified system. If this was state housing, then compensation is calculated on norms existing during the design of construction, R210 per square metre of total area. But it is envisaged that compensation for state housing will be paid in cases where a citizen, in his new place of abode, enters a cooperative, in other words, builds this housing himself. If state housing is provided, there will be no such compensation. If the housing was private, then compensation will be paid according to insurance estimates. What is more, full compensation is envisaged for all structures: dachas, garages, garden sheds, and plantations. Property will be compensated according to average norms. Of course, it is impossible to imagine that hundreds of thousands of citizens will present documents for property that has been lost. Cars will be compensated, also according to insurance estimates. Virtually full compensation of citizens for the loss incurred is envisaged.

Of course, it will not be simple to implement this compensation mechanism in those localities which are not part of Armenia or Azerbaijan, in other words for those citizens who have left both republics. Therefore, it is envisaged that central departments such as the Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Justice, and Goskomtrud [State Committee for Labor and Social Problems] will take part in this process and play the part both of the arbiter and the organizer of compensation payments in these places of abode. All these expenses and expenditure will be covered by the republic whose territory a citizen has left. This is the main principle and it is correct because in this case, the property remains in that republic, but, most important, that republic was to blame for not being able to ensure and defend the rights of these citizens, therefore it should compensate for all these losses. Compromise alternatives need to be found, so that a person can appeal in his actual place of abode, but the oblast executive committee can pay an advance only if it is guaranteed by all-union bodies.

Rev Moon Makes Donation to MOSCOW NEWS

PM2703152490 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No. 12, 25 Mar 90 p 2

[Letter from Unification Church leader Sun Myung Moon, under the rubric: "Thanks to All!"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] MN continues to receive donations from readers to help us repair our offices damaged by fire—and firefighting—at the Union of Theatrical Workers of the Russian Federation next door. [Passage omitted]

From Organizations Abroad:

I was very upset to hear about the fire that damaged your computers, files and other essential things. The Soviet Union needs Moscow News more than ever before. Your countrymen rely on your paper as a leader of glasnost and perestroyka and cannot allow its voice to die away as a result of this tragic incident.

As an expression of my belief in the noble aims of the government and the people of the Soviet Union, materialized in the theory and practice of the new thinking—a symbol of progressive changes for the whole world - I would like to make my donation.

On my own behalf and on the instructions of World Media Association, it is my pleasure to contribute 100,000 dollars for the restoration of the Moscow News premises. My only request to you is that you remain a constructive voice of hope and renewal.

May God bless your people and your country.

Respectfully yours, Rev. Sun Myung Moon [passage omitted]

Ecologist Reports Rising Incidence of Leukemia

AU2903102690 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 29 Mar 90 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Children Die of Leukemia"]

[Excerpt] Since the nuclear disaster of Chernobyl in spring 1986 many children have died of leukemia. In St Gallen [switzerland] Soviet ecologist Aleksander Cheparukin, who is currently trying to procure aid for the Chernobyl victims from Western Europe, reported that the number of cases of leukemia among children is three times higher now than before the nuclear accident.

Official Soviet bodies continue to insist on the statement that only 31 people died in the Ukraine at the time of the accident.

For the first time Cheparukin showed a video film about the situation of the people in the contaminated region. The film also reports on the accumulation of cases of leukemia, which has been noted by the Blood Disease Department of Minsk hospital. Many children were taken to this hospital with severe symptoms of leukemia at such a late date that most of them died within a short time, the scientist reported. For years the people in the affected region have not been informed about the dangers they have been exposed to. [passage omitted]

Publishing House To Change Name

PM2203151390 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 90 p 2

[K. Belyaninov report: "Political Literature Publishing House Changes Name"]

[Text] Any slogan fades sooner or later, even when written with indelible ink on the most beautiful red calico. Instead of letters radiant with social optimism, there remain only half-effaced flourishes completely devoid of meaning. There is, it is said, such a law of historical development. It applies, by the way, not just to slogans but to names.

So that the decision recently made by the collective of the Political Literature Publishing House has nothing at all to do with short-term considerations.

"We are not abandoning the basic principles of socialism and we will remain the publishing house of the party Central Committee," I.V. Mokshantsev, secretary of the publishing house party committee, explained, "but the new conditions and competition are finally making us seek new approaches to publishing. And, of course, really fight for our readers. A program for the publishing house is now being drawn up, and a competition to devise a new title is its first step."

The first round of the competition is already over. Not one of the 20 new titles proposed by the publishing house's staffers has passed muster so far, either because of its vague political content or out of purely stylistic considerations.

Bakatin Attends Soccer Star's Funeral

PM2703092190 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Mar 90 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "It Is Impossible To Forget Him; Moscow Bids Farewell to L.I. Yashin"]

[Excerpts] Thousands of people came to Moscow's "Dinamo" stadium 24 March to bid farewell to the outstanding Soviet sportsman Lev Ivanovich Yashin.

A funeral meeting was held on the Malaya sports arena and then his most devoted supporters bid farewell to the legendary goalkeeper at the stadium's northern gates.

The funeral of Hero of Socialist Labor Lev Ivanovich Yashin took place at the Vagankovskoye cemetery. [passage omitted]

Taking part in the funeral ceremony were V.V. Bakatin, minister of the USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]; V.P. Pirozhkov, deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; Yu.A. Prokofyev, first secretary of the Moscow party city committee; V.V. Maksimov, deputy minister of the USSR MVD; USSR People's Deputy V.S. Sysoyev, chairman of the "Dinamo" Central Council; Yu.V. Shatalin, chief of the USSR MVD Internal Troops Main Administration; leaders of sports departments and clubs, members of the same club as Lev Ivanovich, and his comrades in the country's team.

Economic

Ryzhkov Discusses Problems With Oil, Gas Workers

PM3003110390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 90 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Meeting With Oil and Gas Industry Workers"]

[Text] The acute problems of oil and gas extraction, the immediate needs of workers in these sectors, and the oil and gas industry's development prospects were discussed 28 March at a meeting between N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and leaders of oil and gas extraction production associations from all regions of the country. Deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, ministers, leaders of central economic departments, and trade union representatives also took part in the discussion.

The frank and principled exchange of opinions produced a comprehensive analysis of the state of affairs regarding oil and gas extraction. It was noted that the sectors, which supply three-fourths of the country's fuel and energy, suffer from an accumulation of numerous technical, economic, and social problems. There is a widening gap between the technical standards of oil and gas extraction and contemporary world standards. The volume of oil extraction is declining. The economic situation of most enterprises and associations has become more complex and social tension has increased, especially in West Siberia's oil and gas extracting regions.

The ensuing discussion singled out two packages of problems—current and long-term.

Many of the speakers were especially alarmed by the threat that fulfillment of the 1990 targets might be wrecked, primarily due to the failure to back up state orders with material, technical, and financial resources. There was sharp criticism of the USSR Gossnab [State Committee for Material and Technical Supply] and its territorial organs. Oil and gas fields constantly suffer from shortages of pipes for different purposes, pumping units, pumps, Christmas trees [fontannaya armatura], other equipment, and technical transport. Responsibility for the prevailing situation must be fully apportioned among enterprises in partner sectors—the metallurgical, machine building, and chemical industries. The cessation of work at Azerbaijan's enterprises for the production of oil field equipment and pipes has also had an effect.

All this could not have failed to affect the economic position of oil and gas industry workers' labor collectives. Furthermore, whereas oil and gas prices have remained at the same level for several years, the conference noted that the cost of extraction is rising due to, among other factors, rising prices for equipment and material; consequently, the profitability of production is falling and the financial situation of many enterprises is becoming considerably more complex.

Serious complaints were made against republican and local organs of power and the USSR Ministry of Trade system which fail to ensure that oil and gas industry workers are supplied with foodstuffs and consumer goods. For example, meat shipments in Tyumen Oblast, the Bashkir and Tatar ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic], and in Volgograd, Omsk, Orenburg, Saratov, and several other RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] oblasts have been thwarted since the beginning of the year.

The solution of questions concerning the construction of housing and social sphere facilities is unsatisfactory in the oil and gas extracting regions. What is more, many union republics which have built up their own construction industry base largely using the oil and gas industry workers' funds are cutting back on the construction of housing blocks, schools, preschool institutions, hospitals, and polyclinics in Tyumen Oblast. In this context, N.I. Ryzhkov emphasized the need to ensure that all republics continue for several more years to participate in this construction work, until such time as a local construction industry base is created there. A decision by the USSR Government to this effect will be adopted.

As regards the development prospects of oil and gas extraction sectors beyond the current year's framework, the attention of participants in the meeting was drawn primarily to the comprehensive development of both the production and the social sphere. Special attention was given to scientific and technical progress. There was discussion of the fundamental retooling of the sectors, the development of new technologies and technical means for the fullest possible extraction of oil and gas condensate, the maximum utilization of casinghead gas, comprehensive processing of hydrocarbon raw materials, and sharply improved quality of all field equipment. Following the opening up of new fields, a major problem is posed by the development and series production of equipment packages for hydrogen-sulfide-rich oil and gas fields in the Caspian Sea region and West Kazakhstan. Participants in the meeting associated all prospects for oil and gas extraction with environmental protection and the provision of normal living conditions for people.

Summing up the discussion results, the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers noted that the conversation had followed the tracks of the overall complex socioeconomic situation in the country. The oil and gas industry's problems are in many regards typical of other national economic sectors. We have just a single way out—to energetically advance the economic reform. This requires fundamental changes in the entire system of economic planning and management, genuine economic autonomy for enterprises and regions, radical reform of price formation, and elaboration of guarantees for citizens' social protection.

The conference participants were unanimous that urgent solutions are needed to ease the urgency of the accumulated problems. With this in mind, instructions were given to examine all the questions raised at the meeting. It was emphasized that an active role in their solution must be played by local and republican organs of power including the RSFSR Council of Ministers. The USSR Ministry of the Oil and Gas Industry, jointly with the Gosplan [State Planning Committee], the Gossnab, the USSR Ministry of Finance, and the partner ministries, were instructed to work out the problems associated with the oil and gas industry's long-term development.

The chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers called on workers in these sectors to do everything necessary for the fulfillment of this year's targets.

Joint Enterprise Zone To Be Set Up in Vyborg

LD2903175690 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—By TASS correspondents Georg Mikhalin and Aleksandr Fyodorov:

The USSR Council of Ministers is considering the proposal of Leningrad regional authorities to set up a joint enterprise zone in Vyborg district, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official told TASS today.

The zone could be established on the basis of the existing Soviet legislation on joint ventures and the USSR's bilateral ties with several countries on the reciprocal protection of investments, said Sergey Lavrov, deputy head of the International Economic Relations Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Tax benefits could apply to enterprises operating within this zone, he added.

Forty leading enterprises in Leningrad region are interested in the new project, Lavrov said. The project has been welcomed by the public of Vyborg district.

Many foreign firms have been conducting talks on the establishment of joint ventures on the basis of research and development conducted at Leningrad enterprises and institutes, he said.

"All signs indicate that the pioneering project of establishing a joint enterprise zone here will materialise," Lavrov pointed out in conclusion.

Agricultural

Agrarian Deputies Cite Need for Peasant Party

PM2903130190 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 29 Mar 90 p 2

[Interviews with Deputies A. Veprev and B. Palagnyuk, by T. Alekseyeva, A. Kostyukov, and A. Morgachev; date and place not specified: "Agrarian Deputies Argue: Do Peasants Need Their Own Party?"]

[Text] Twice during the work of the Third Congress of USSR People's Deputies, agrarian deputies assembled in their own peasants' circle to talk about country matters. Matters which, as is well known, are not going particularly well. The rural elected representatives have a big grievance against the government, which is failing to "deliver the goods" for its promises regarding priority attention to the countryside. They have, actually, already said this many times but this time the question was raised more broadly: The peasantry should seek an equal position in society. By what means? A group of people's deputies headed by A.F. Veprev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for Agrarian Questions and Food, suggested to its colleagues that they discuss the idea of creating a peasant labor party in the country. This proposal was, frankly, received in varying ways and caused sharp disputes. Opponents put forward an idea to counter it: creating a nonpolitical organization—a peasants' labor union. This proposal is in particular upheld by B.T. Palagnyuk, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Without assuming the role of arbiter, the newspaper offers readers the opportunity to assess for themselves the topic of debate and the sides' arguments. And so....

A. Veprev: "It Is Indeed a Case of a Party"

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] Arkadiy Filimonovich, let us specify, just in case: It is a matter of a political and not an economic union and not a new trade union?

[Veprev] It is indeed a case of a party. Of a peasant party which would unite in its ranks the workers of kolkhozes [collective farms], sovkhozes [state farms], peasant labor farms, and cooperatives. Like any party it should have a statute, program, and individual membership. Like any party its main task is the struggle for power. Unless we have political power we will be unable to really struggle for the peasantry's interests.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] The desire of a group of enthusiasts is not enough to form a party. Parties arise only when society discovers a need for them. We are now observing people locally forming various unions, societies, and associations. Can it be considered that this is a manifestation of this same need for a political association?

[Veprev] That is what it is. The peasants' need for some kind of effective political association is obvious. Only everyone is afraid of uttering the word "party." Because it used to be accepted that there could only be one party in our country. But now it is enshrined in the constitution: "The CPSU and other parties...." A multiparty system is already taking shape in the country and there is no escaping the fact. And there is a danger that the peasantry, deprived of their own political association, will be separated into other parties.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] But this probably cannot be avoided in any case. It is hard to remember viable parties anywhere in the world created along professional lines. For instance, you cannot say of the CPSU that it is exclusively a workers' party.

[Veprev] But I do not think that a peasant party should unite peasants alone. Parties are formed around an idea. And a peasant party will be joined by those to whom the ideas of the peasantry's resurrection as a class are close. And who these people will be—individual farmer, professor, or lawyer—is of no consequence. It is in fact in our interests that the party's professional composition be as varied as possible so that it includes people from the land and intellectuals.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] Today we heard colleagues reproaching you and those who think like you of splittism, of acting to pique the CPSU.

[Veprev] Well, we have grown accustomed to arousing fear in each other. And even today, when no one is banning or preventing us from creating parties, we are trying to ban it ourselves. I believe that if the peasants had had their own party, the countryside would not have gotten into this state. Instead of understanding this we suddenly came out with the slogan: "The city must return the countryside's debts!" Why this slogan? To make the peasants quarrel with the working class? That's all we need now.... But what debts does the worker have to the countryside, what is there for him to pay off his debts with? He himself can barely make ends meet. This is not serious talk. You must struggle for the interests of the countryside at the level of legislative and government decisions with your own party and faction in parliament.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] Arkadiy Filimonovich, does the future party already have an organizational committee?

[Veprev] No, not yet.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] And your Supreme Soviet Committee on Agrarian Questions cannot assume organizational-party functions?

[Veprev] You see, I believe that the Supreme Soviet committee should not engage in such work. If we create a party through some committee the peasant will immediately think: It is the "top brass" who is engaged in this again, which means the peasant will be duped again. The party should be formed from below, on an independent basis. Our business is to add the "leavening," to give an idea, and let people think for themselves whether or not they need such a party.

B. Palagnyuk: "There Is No Point in Meddling in Politics"

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] All agrarian deputies are unanimous that they must unite. But on the basis of what principles and what platform? Some assert that a peasant party is needed. Others are categorically opposed to it: They say the peasant does not need these party games—he needs a labor union of agrarian workers [agrariyev]. We would be interested to know your opinion, Boris Timofeyevich, as a politician and practical expert.

[Palagnyuk] Having worked as a sovkhoz director for not one but many years and with constant contact with ordinary people, I have never once heard them say that someone needed their own party. They ask for freedom. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes, leased cooperatives, and individual farmers ask this. They also ask for material and technical supplies to the countryside to be improved. They ask for the peasant's labor to be assessed as its worth. If all that is given to the peasant, his life will be transformed without any parties. But we have set about comparing our peasant with the American individual farmer and are demanding from him the same results although we have given him nothing—neither wages nor resources. Will a peasant party provide all this? No. In addition the most politically active section of the population already belongs to a party—the Communist Party. But the creation of a peasant union could give the countryside a lot. Especially as it will be an organization which has nothing to prevent it nominating its own candidate people's deputies and through them representing the peasants' interests in parliament.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] A peasant labor union—how do you imagine it, what should its functions be?

[Palagnyuk] The following analogy can be drawn. The kolkhozes have their own council, it is called the union council of kolkhozes and is headed by I.I. Kukhar, a USSR people's deputy and kolkhoz chairman. But the sovkhozes, cooperative associations, and individual farmers have no such council. We believe it is more expedient to have one common union for kolkhozes, sovkhozes, enterprises of the processing industry, and cooperatives. They must all be united into a single association and must operate harmoniously. That is how we thought when our group of agrarian workers met at the Third Congress of People's Deputies. We have already created our own coordination center which has been joined by representatives of all the union republics and we are now elaborating a program of action.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] We spoke on this subject with People's Deputy V.A. Starodubtsev and he also unambiguously advocates a peasant labor union. But it seemed to us that the authors of this idea want to invest the union with administrative and managerial functions. Are you not creating a new, parallel State Agro-Industrial Committee?

[Palagnyuk] No, the agro-industrial committee is a state organ of management. But the union is a public organization. We should not have any "industrial committees," we should have a Ministry of Agriculture, like all countries of the world. It manages the sector's economic activity while our alliance will defend the peasant's legal and economic interests. I repeat this is a public organ, something like the council of kolkhozes, which stands aloof from politics.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] Boris Timofeyevich, surely it is impossible to be completely "aloof from politics?"

[Palagnyuk] No, you cannot be completely without politics. As a public organization the union will act as representative at various levels of state power. But I am still convinced that there is no point in a peasant meddling in the political struggle, he must work.

Scientific

Space Observatory Continues Research Program

LD2903162490 Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—An international space observatory, Granat, put into orbit around the earth on December 2, 1989, continues to carry out the planned program of research of stars, galaxies, the sun and space sources of X-ray and gamma-ray bursts.

Thirty-two sessions of observation each 20 to 46 hours long were conducted in February and March 1990 from on board the space apparatus. X-ray images of a gigantic cluster of galaxies in the Perseus Constellation have been received and the temperature of intergalaxy gas there has been measured.

The mapping of our galaxy's centre has been carried out. Periods of rotation of neutron stars—X-ray pulsars in Hercules, Cassiopeia, Perseus and Centaurus have been measured.

On the night of March 18, when the Granat observatory was 150,000 kilometers away from the earth, all its instruments registered a unique power burst from the sun which lasted for several hours.

Once in several days, the observatory's instruments register gamma-bursts. The information received from on board the satellite is processed and analysed at the Soviet Academy of Sciences' space research institute and laboratories in France Denmark and Bulgaria.

Technical experiments were carried out during the flight which expanded the number of examined objects. In April, it is planned to continue the research of our galaxy's centre, X-ray pulsars and active galaxies' nuclei.

Biotechnical Experiments Conducted Aboard 'Mir'

LD2903215390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1447 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 29 March (TASS)—The "Rekomb" biotechnological experiment on the fusion of cells, producing biologically active substances, has been carried out in space for the first time. It was carried out during the recent 166-day expedition aboard the 'Mir' long-term orbiting complex by cosmonauts Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Serebrov.

According to Aleksandr Serebrov, scientists are now studying the returned ampoules in order to find out how much more effectively the process of hybridization of cells takes place in a weightless environment. The cosmonaut believes that the success promises a great economic result as it will become possible to obtain new sources of biological preparations with pre-set properties.

As we have already reported, an experiment on the crystallization of proteins was carried out during the fifth mission to the 'Mir' station. American equipment was used. This was the first U.S. experiment to be accomplished aboard a Soviet space station. It was carried out on a commercial basis under an agreement with a firm called Payload Systems.

In addition, according to Aleksandr Serebrov, biotechnical experiments on the "Ruchey" installation were continued. The purposes of these experiments is to determine the effectiveness of the fine purification of insulin through electrophoresis in conditions of microgravity. Monocrystals of various proteins were also cultivated.

Biotechnical experiments on board the 'Mir' orbital complex are carried out in highly productive installations. For instance, the purification of proteins, using electrophoresis, is 1,000 times more productive than on earth.

Military

Reportage on Increasing Crime Rate in Soviet Army

No Improvement Seen

LD2903173890 Moscow TASS in English 1718 GMT 29 Mar 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Crime in the Soviet Army grew by a disquieting 14.5 per cent in 1989 compared to the previous year, the chief military prosecutor told a news conference here today.

Addressing journalists at the chief military prosecutor's office, Justice Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Katusev, chief military prosecutor and deputy prosecutor-general of the USSR, remarked that the situation showed no signs of improvement during the first months of this year.

An increasing number of soldiers and sergeants, especially from the Baltic and Transcaucasian republics, desert the Army, Katusev said.

At present, more than one thousand servicemen from those regions alone are AWOL, he added.

All deserters will be returned to their garrisons and the responsibility of each one of them will be determined there, the military prosecutor said. He stressed the need to bring to account those who encourage young men to commit military crimes.

The theft of weapons and ammunition has recently grown by 50 per cent. The prosecutor revealed details of a recent attack on a sentry post in Yerevan, during which a group of unidentified people, dressed in military uniform, stole 69 submachine-guns, 88 pistols, two machine-guns and large quantities of munitions.

Katusev Interviewed

LD2903191890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Today at the main military procuracy there was a meeting with representatives of the mass media. Aleksandr Filipovich Katusev, deputy chief prosecutor of the USSR, chief military prosecutor, and lieutenant general of justice, answered questions put by journalists. Our correspondent Anatoliy Fedorov interviewed him.

[Begin recording] [Fedorov] Aleksandr Filipovich, what was the main aim of today's meeting?

[Katusev] One has to admit that for many years the work of the military procuracy remained secret. And therefore we had very insignificant—if one can put it like that—contacts with representatives of the mass media. In connection with the development of glasnost and democracy, we have also restructured our work, and therefore a correspondent or other representative of the mass media is a welcome guest here now.

[Fedorov] Aleksandr Filipovich, I'll take the bull by the horns immediately. Can you give a few figures for military crimes, trends, and types of crimes.

[Katusev] Unfortunately, at the present time I cannot give absolute figures for crimes committed in the Army and the Navy, since they are still secret. It is my personal opinion—and we are at present working on this issue—that these figures should be declassified. The only thing we can do is to give some percentages. I can say that in 1989 the number of crimes in the Soviet Army and Navy rose by 9.8 per cent. What caused this growth? A particular factor was evasion of military service, something like 40.4 per cent. Theft in the forces increased by 8.9 per cent, and especially the theft of weapons and ammunition, by 55.5 per cent.

[Fedorov] Nonetheless, to be specific...I know that at the present time something like 50,000 units of various kinds of weapons are being sought throughout the country. How many of them are army weapons?

[Katusev] That is, starting from 1946, the number of army weapons is approximately 1,000 firearms.

[Fedorov] Can you give me the average percentage for military crimes solved?

[Katusev] I would say that we solve a large percentage, something like 95 per cent.

[Fedorov] Yet another painful question which worries many. I know that recently a collegium was held that was devoted to the issue of the campaign against so-called bullying and non-regulation mutual relations in the Army. What has been done by your over the period since the collegium was held?

[Katusev] Many believe that bullying is the result of the Army environment. This is not true. People forget that just because a person puts on a military uniform, this does not make him a disciplined follower of orders straight away. For a long time he still remains—and sometimes right to the end of his Army service—what he was before, preserving the views formed before call upon life, attitude to duty, work and so on. We have such manifestations, as we call them in the Army, of bullying. These also occur in technical colleges and especially in vocational schools and schools. Last year approximately 50,000 people who had previous criminal convictions were called up into the Army. But what needs to be noted, is that in 1989 there was some decrease in crimes resulting from so-called bullying.

[Fedorov] What are the trends in crime among officers?

[Katusev] The number of crimes committed by officers in 1989 was two and a half times less than in 1985.

[Fedorov] Aleksandr Filipovich, USSR Minister of Defense Yazov, who is on a visit to France, when asked about the Lithuanian deserters, what will happen to them, what their fate will be, replied that they would all be returned to their units. But the legislation envisages definite measures of punishment for desertion from the Army. What is the position of the military procuracy here?

[Katusev] As far as individuals are concerned, not only of Lithuanian nationality, Azerbaijanis, Armenians, and Russians from the Caucasus have run away from the Army, soldiers have run away, they have all committed a military crime. And in this case they are all liable for punishment. But this does mean that we will take them all en masse and arrest them now and send them off to be punished. The law offers the procuracy the right to decide the question of whether to send one serviceman or another to trial or to discharge him, or to release him on bail. We shall see what mitigating circumstances there are: voluntary return to the unit, how long that serviceman was on the run, as we put it, and we will decide the fate of each person accordingly. We will expose the organizers, the instigators. At the present time, I know that a decision has been adopted in Estonia that Estonian emissaries should arrive in the units and campaign among servicemen of Estonian nationality to persuade them to return home. The minister of defense has issued an order that the emissaries should be detained and handed over to the internal affairs bodies for a decision to be taken on instituting criminal proceedings.

[Fedorov] And what measures of punishment are provided for by the law specifically for these types of military crime?

[Katusev] Up to eight years imprisonment.

[Fedorov] Now military construction detachments and battalions have been removed from the structure of the country's Ministry of Defense and handed over to 20 union and republican ministries and departments. Three hundred thousand young men undergo so-called military service. This is a huge mass of people, who are often being used as cheap manpower.

[Katusev] Here the position of the military procuracy is as follows. At the present time these detachments exist outside law, for they do not have a law-based status. But we do not interfere in economic activity. If the government considers that these detachments are needed—and many think that—this means that a law must be promulgated in which there would be laws and obligations both binding upon the military builders and on the state with respect to them. [end recording]

Baltic Republics

'Civic Action' Urges Recognition of Lithuania

LD3003154590 Vilnius Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Lithuanian news agency reports an appeal adopted at a session of the Civic Action committee on 24 March 1990. Taking part in its work were people's deputies of the USSR and RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], members of the Interregional Group of Deputies and the Democratic Russia bloc, representatives of public organizations, the Democratic Platform in the CPSU, the Social Democratic Association, Memorial, the Interregional Association of Democratic Organizations, the Moscow Tribune, the Voters' Club of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Nevada Society, the Armenian Pan-national Movement, the Azerbaijani Social Democratic Party, the Association of Voters and Deputies of Bashkiria, the Birlik Society, the Rustaveli Society, the Azerbaijani Popular Front, the Green Movement, and others.

The appeal says in particular, I quote: We understand and respect the restoration of state independence of Lithuania. We see it as an implementation of the inalienable right of peoples to self- determination, as the restoration of historical justice in relation to a country whose sovereignty was at one time trampled as a result of the criminal plot of Stalin with Hitler.

Everything depends on the good will and statesmanship of the leadership of the USSR and the Lithuanian Republic, on reciprocal good will, and calm on the part of the Lithuanians, Russians, Belorussians, Poles, and representatives of other nationalities both in Lithuania and outside its frontiers. There are no insoluble problems here. Only they must not be whipped up artificially. Being guided by these convictions, we make the following proposals:

First, that the Supreme Soviet and USSR president recognize the independence of the Lithuanian state and take measures to establish relations of equality with it. Second, that the decree of the president of 21 March 1990 "on additional measures to ensure the rights of Soviet citizens and on maintaining the sovereignty of the USSR on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]" should be lifted since it is unconstructive and pays homage to the old political thinking and objectively is capable only of intensifying multiethnic tension both in Lithuania and in the republics of the Soviet Union. Third, that the president and Government of the USSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the government and parliament of the Lithuanian Republic should immediately start negotiations directed at preserving the stability of existing economic links, solving problems of citizenship, satisfying both sides with a settlement of relations of property, financial, transportation and other issues. Fourth, the main thing now is not to allow national suspicion and enmity to gain the upper hand. National agreement is the most important condition for the success of sovereign Lithuania, for the calm and prosperity of all its inhabitants. The peaceful and democratic development of Lithuania is an important condition for the victory of democracy in the Soviet Union. end quote.

Lithuanian Official Views Lack of Union Supplies

LD3003155990 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Interview with Algirdas Brazauskas, deputy prime minister and first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party, by correspondent Benas Rupeika in Vilnius; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Brazaskas] I would not say that there have been many changes in our life last week, excluding those events which have been described and commented on very extensively. This concerns the fate of our young people who have returned from the Army, such a sad fate, and I am very sorry for them. These are resolute actions by airborne troops against the Lithuanian Communist Party. [passage omitted] At present we are organizing our work in the Council of Ministers in every concrete manner.

[Rupeika] I would like to continue the topic of the Lithuanian Communist Party since you mentioned the attack by airborne troops against the party itself. I saw you signing several letters just now to former Central Committee officials.

[Brazauskas] Yes, today is their last day at work and I signed a letter of gratitude for each of them. This is the result of a new attitude to the political structure in Lithuania, to the equality of all parties. We had a plenum last Monday where we discussed very extensively our party's future and matters which are being discussed by the society, the Lithuanian Communist Party organizations and even in parliament—yes, even in parliament about the fate of our party, the need to change its name, correct the program. [passage omitted] During the plenum the majority of us reached the conclusion that we must strengthen the Lithuanian Communist Party. [passage indistinct]

My duties in the government as deputy chairman and the sphere allocated to me, the sphere of production is very responsible, and if I succeed in ensuring normal work among enterprises, building and transport, if we succeed it will be a great achievement. [passage indistinct]

We are receiving only 20 percent of the metal from the Cherepovets metallurgical combine. [passage omitted] From 110,000 cubic meters of timber, we are now receiving only 60,000. [passage omitted] The supply to our local industry enterprises, especially the Atrama and the Nemunas in Kaunas, of wire, sheet steel [words indistinct], in Gorkiy Oblast trucks, the Dzerzhinskiy chemical combine, where we obtain chemicals, we have received only half; in Chelyabinsk Oblast bulldozers;

from 36 large bulldozers which are used in building, not one has been signed for delivery. This is the greatest loss to us. [passage omitted] We should receive 100,000 cubic meters of building timber. They refuse to supply it. I do not know what will happen but already our builders build houses which stand without windows or doors. From Karelia 22,000 cubic meters, but nothing has been received.

[Rupeika] Let us not continue this list. Do you see in this list some firm hand, some coordinating move in Moscow? Is this being done consciously or does it develop by itself?

[Brazauskas] I do not dare to say that these are coordinated actions. In the Soviet Union there is a great disorder in the economy and production ties between individual departments have been interrupted. But there are signals that they do not support or forbid the supply to Lithuania of some products which we need very badly. [passage omitted]

Of course, we have to win. We not only state facts but also work. We speak to the corresponding Union bodies and departments, send telegrams, send people. We do this, without intimidating anyone. I only stated facts and there are many of them. [passage omitted]

Landsbergis Notes Republic Now Issuing Visas

LD3003134590 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] At a news conference today [29 March] by Vytautas Landsbergis questions were asked about the draft law on political parties, the debates on which have started at the Supreme Council. Of course, the journalists were interested in the fate of the CPSU in Lithuania. Vytautas Landsbergis noted that he was not inclined to evaluate a draft law linking it with the CPSU branch in Lithuania. It will be possible to make a comment when the law is passed.

Algirdas Brazauskas, deputy prime minister and leader of the Lithuanian Communist Party, stated that he categorically disagreed that the CPSU group in Lithuania is appropriating the name of the Lithuanian Communist Party. Our programs are essentially different, he said.

Late in the evening the Supreme Council gave a reception for foreign journalists. It seems it went well. Already, during his news conference, Vytautas Landsbergis noted that the republic of Lithuania has already been issuing its visas and can accredit journalists. And this is sacred truth. THE INDEPENDENT correspondent, Edward Lucas, having come by air from Berlin to Vilnius, received the very first visa of the republic of Lithuania and enjoyed the Supreme Council reception.

Lithuanian Procurator Dismissed by Moscow

LD3003130190 Vilnius Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow is still striving by all possible means to destabilize the relatively peaceful situation in the Lithuanian Republic. Today Aleksey Vasilyev, first deputy general procurator of the USSR, at a meeting of staff of the republic's procuracy, read out an order from Sukharev, procurator general of the USSR, according to which Arturas Palauskas, former first deputy procurator of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, is released from his duties. Colonel of Justice [title as heard] Antanas Petrauskas has been appointed in his place. Until now he had been working in the (?Riga) military procuracy. According to the instruction of Sukharev, Petrauskas will carry out the duties of prucurator of Soviet Lithuania.

As a gesture of protest, the staff of the procuracy, following Egidijus Bickauskas, walked out of the session hall. We have been informed that Arturas Palauskas, who had been confirmed in his duties as procurator by the Supreme Council of the Lithuanian Republic, does not intend to give up his office.

KGB Issues Statement on Lithuanian Activity

LD3003145790 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1250 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 30 March (TASS)—Here is the official text of a statement by the USSR State Security Committee which says:

Reports are coming in about continuing violations in the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] of decisions by the Third Congress of Peoples' Deputies of the USSR which confirmed the (?juridical) justification for the validity of all-Union legislation on the territory of the republic. Another step of this nature was taken with the statement by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR of 27 March this year which contained appeals to the citizens of Lithuania not to cooperate any longer with the state security bodies in their fulfillment of their functions. Moreover, it contains a threat to punish those who do not cease to give help to the state security bodies.

In this connection the USSR KGB considers it necessary to call attention to the fact that ensuring state security, in accordance with the Constitution of the USSR and the Constitutions of the Union republics, is placed within the competence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The KGB of the Lithuanian SSR is an integral part of the system of the KGB of the USSR. On the basis of this the USSR KGB states that all of its units will continue in the future, too, to fulfill the tasks allocated to them on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR, including the tasks of combating the subversive activities of the special services of foreign states, organized crime, and preventing and halting crimes against the state which fall within its competence, as well as protection of the state border of the USSR.

Attempts from any source to oppose the fulfillment by the KGB of the Lithuanian SSR of the functions of ensuring state security are against the law with all the consequences stemming from that.

In connection with the abovementioned statement by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the USSR KGB stresses that legally its link with the working people is lawful and is in accord with the provisions of the Constitution of the USSR. The USSR State Security Committee stresses that it will continue to rely in its activity on the support of Soviet people. The security agents regard the latter's help as the fulfillment of their civic duty and will do everything to ensure that the safety of these citizens is guaranteed.

The USSR KGB expresses a resolute protest in connection with the adoption of the anticonstitutional act and the attempts to defame and put moral pressure on officials of the KGB of the Lithuanian SSR, and with the desire of certain circles to draw them into illegal activity.

Vilnius Radio Continues 29 Mar Council Session

Future Agendas Discussed

LD2903154390

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 1300 GMT on 29 March continues its live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius.

Regulations procedures for electing members of the Supreme Council are discussed and later adopted by a majority of votes.

At 1317 GMT nominating candidates to the Supreme Council Presidium is examined.

At 1332 GMT Deputy Gediminas Vagneris presents a report on the Law on Enterprises of the Republic of Lithuania.

At 1340 GMT the draft agenda for the next week is presented:

1. To have a day off tomorrow;

2. On Monday to start work in the commissions at 0800 GMT; to hold a plenary session at 1200 GMT. The main issue discussed at the session will be concerning new recruitments to the Soviet Armed Forces which will start soon.

3. On Tuesday a plenary session will be held from 0700 GMT until 1530 GMT. The Law on Enterprises will be discussed. It is proposed that debates on the status and structure of the Supreme Council should not be relayed live because radio listeners will not find it interesting.

4. It is proposed that during the first part of the day on Wednesday a plenary session will be held where the following issues will be discussed: setting up independent state bodies, such as environment protection, Lithuanian radio and television, and others. Another issue discussed that day will be a law on political parties. A draft decree will address the rehabilitation of persons who fought against acts of occupation. The second part of the day deputies will work in the permanent commissions.

5. On Thursday four questions will be discussed the whole day:
1) the law on the state emblem;
2) the supplement to the code on the land of the republic of Lithuania;
3) the draft law on amnesty;
4) the political situation and implementing the already adopted laws. This is the agenda proposed for the coming week. Following this, debates started. Bronius Kuzmickas, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, proposed that a representative from Lithuania should be sent to the present Lithuanian mission in Moscow with mandates to represent the Lithuanian republic there.

The session then adjourns until 1445 GMT.

Law on Political Parties Debated

LD2903161990

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 1452 GMT on 29 March continues its live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet in Vilnius.

At 1511 GMT the deputies speak on issues concerning the Law on Political Parties.

At 1527 GMT it is proposed to discontinue broadcast of simultaneous translation into Russian by Lithuanian Radio Two and start broadcasting the program in Polish, a program which normally is on the air at that time. This is done following the complaints by the Polish community that the time for the program in Polish has now been taken up by simultaneous translation of the work of the session. The proposal is accepted.

At 1530 GMT debates on the Law on Political Parties continue.

At 1540 GMT results of the secret ballot of the first round of the elections to the Presidium of the Supreme Council are announced. Only one deputy is elected, Deputy Petrovas. He receives absolute majority of votes. The second round of ballot will take place at the end of the session. Deputies vote, and while the votes are being counted the session is adiourned until 1620 GMT.

Presidium Members Elected

LD2903172790

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 1622 GMT on 29 March continues its live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet in Vilnius.

Votes were still being counted, therefore the floor is given to Deputy Klumbys, a Christian Democrat, who made a report about a phone call from chairman of Belgium Christian Doemocratic Party to him. Deputy

Egidijus Klumbys said that Belgian Christian Democrats made an appeal to all Christian Democrats of the world to urge their governments to recognize the republic of Lithuania.

At 1627 GMT debates on the Law on Political Parties continues.

At 1630 GMT the results are announced. Eugenijus Petrovas, Egidijus Bickauskas, Romas Gudaitis, Mecys Laurinkus, Aloyzas Sakalas, and Gediminas Vagnorius are elected members of the Presidium of the Supreme Council.

At 1634 GMT a telegram from Polish Social Democrats is read.

At 1640 GMT work of the session concludes and the relay ends.

Journalists Leave Lithuania; Situation Calm

LD2903171290 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1600 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Now over to Lithuania. Now foreigners have started leaving the country at the same time as the Soviet leadership has sharpened its tone in the psychological war, reports our correspondent on a telephone line, which, unfortunately, is not of the best quality.

[Begin correspondent recording] During the past 24 hours we, the foreign journalists here in Vilnius, have been something of a leading topic, at least in the open war of words between Vilnius and Moscow. More and more journalists are now leaving Vilnius as Moscow has sharpened the tone on the question of the presence of journalists in Lithuania, which has created a nervous mood here. One after another the Moscow-based journalists are being called home. Extra train cars have been ordered for Moscow for this evening, and it is obvious how important the struggle [is] between Moscow and Vilnius. Yesterday the Lithuanian government offered to issue visas to all those who want to stay. The visa would in this case be issued by the independent republic of Lithuania, but most of the journalists smile at the offer; Soviet laws are still valid in Lithuania.

Otherwise it has been calm in Lithuania today, apart from a reported shooting incident against a storage building which sells military equipment outside the town of Varena, eight [Swedish] miles south of Vilnius. According to information from the military authorities, a private motorist is said to have passed the storage building at about 0130 in the night and fired four shots at the building, which is guarded by the military. But the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Vilnius claims that this information is not correct. But what is correct is that both sides have exaggerated things in their propaganda against each other so far.

[Signed] Vladislav Savic, Vilnius. [end recording]

'Opposing' Meetings Planned for 29 Mar in Riga

LD2903133890 Riga in Latvian to Europe 1730 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] While the Supreme Soviet of Latvia awaits 3 May, various public organizations act as each of them knows best. Thus today, around lunch time, an aircraft scattered leaflets over Riga which were signed by the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] United Council of Labor Collectives. They are invitations to a meeting at the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] Embankment for tomorrow, 29 March. The motto of this meeting is: For Latvia in a Renewed Federation. It is stated in the leaflet that the leaders of the People's Front of Lavia, speculating with the most sacred feelings of the Latvian people, are pushing the people of Latvia into an abyss. The authors of the leaflet are alarmed that an actual rebirth of the bourgeois republic is possible.

The Women's League of Latvia, the Environment Protection Club of Latvia, Latvia's National Independence Movement, and a number of other non-formal organizations, in their turn, have issued invitations for the same time tomorrow to a meeting at the Doma Laukums, to defend Lithuania, to condemn Soviet militarism, and to take a stand for the end to the occupation of Latvia.

It must be added that the last meeting has been officially registered and has been permitted. The Council of Labor Collectives, in its turn, has organized its meeting, but has not requested permission to arrange it.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, expressed amazement at today's already mentioned meeting to ascertain which organization had enough money to hire an aircraft to scatter leaflets. It is known that by the same kind of method the opponents of independence of Lithuania were invited to meetings in Vilnius.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs also said that until now he had not known of an instance when at the same time, and that geographically close, meetings had been organized by two public organizations of opposing trends.

Lithuanian Deputy Explains Mission in Moscow

LD3003103290 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Nikolajus Medvedevas in Moscow by journalist Jurate Valanciute; date not given; from the "Lithuanian Today" program—recorded]

[Text] [Valanciute] I wanted to address you as a spokesman of the republic of Lihuania in Moscow, but after the well known note from the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania and of the....

[Medvedevas] Yes, therefore, maybe, it is not quite clear what I am doing in Moscow. I am fulfilling at present the function of a contact person between the Supreme Council of Lithuania and the democratically inclined deputies from other republics.

[Valanciute] You, Bickauskas and Buracas.

[Medvedevas] Yes, we discuss here what to do, and we are acting. Recently we organized a visit by Obolenskiy to Lithuania and of some other deputies who could disseminate information about Lithuania. In spite of the fact that the press writes at present a great deal about Lithuania, and television and radio are also broadcasting something, it happens that this information, to put it mildly, is not very objective and sometimes something is said in such a way that people do not understand. For instance, the statement by Yazov. Everyone understood that he was lying. But they did not know the reason. Therefore I go to the Kremlin to the basement where the canteen is situated, and I am immediately surrounded by other deputies who ask questions. I explain to them, they ask what measures could be adopted in such cases. I explain to them what measures they could take. When that storming of the hospitals and the Central Committee building took place, protests were expressed by Georgian, Moldavian, and some other deputies.

[Valanciute] And, do you feel that we have a growing number of supporters?

[Medvedevas] I must say they are increasing. Even those people who have been completely indifferent now understand that we virtually did not have any other way out, and those who have been hostile now have started having doubts.

[Valanciute] You are making the best use of your abilities there. What about the official stand?

[Medvedevas] Some people think that politics is being conducted in this building, in this hall. But politics is created in the lobby, in conversations with journalists, with individual deputies, in canteens. However, the situation will develop, we know that the democrats have won in Leningrad, in the Urals, in Moscow and other places, and we will have to maintain some economic relations with them.

[Valanciute] I understand that your work in Moscow is now very difficult.

[Medvedevas] I am very tired from my stay in Moscow. I have already several times packed my bags and wanted to leave, saying that my nerves could not stand it any more. But I sit down, think, and say to myself; I am going to suffer only for a week or a few days more.

[Valanciute] Is it for Lithuania?

[Medvedevas] For the people, too. For my Nemunas [River in Lithuania] which I love so much.

Landsbergis Criticizes Moscow Delay Over Talks

LD2903223890 Vilnius International Service in English 2200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A news conference was held today at the Supreme Council for Lithuanian and foreign journalists. Chairman of the Supreme Council Vytautas Landsbergis pointed out that actions aimed at destabilizing the situation were going on. Army chiefs are listing alleged offenses against the troops and the Ministry of Internal Affairs is wasting time investigating them. So today it was reported that in Varena two shots were fired from a passing car at a group of soldiers. The car was found but the charges proved to be invented. Vytautas Landsbergis pointed out that such fabricated information is spread all over the Soviet Union, increasing tension.

Meanwhile, there are no signs from the Kremlin indicating that they wish to start any talks, although the whole world is calling for dialogue or even negotiations, Vytautas Landsbergis pointed out. We are ready to do it from the first day.

[Word indistinct] questions from a Radio Vilnius correspondent, Vytautas Landsbergis replied: We are seeking contacts with Moscow, but it's very difficult to make contacts with a concrete wall. There is no ground to reproach us for contacts only with the West, since we simply meet with civilized behavior on the part of the West, the chairman said.

Mecys Laurinkus, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council, pointed out that the rounding up of youths who have left the Army continues. From seven to 10 youths are reported seized daily. The officers present official papers guaranteeing that if the youths return of their own free will they will not be prosecuted.

Vytautas Landsbergis remarked here: I don't believe the generals.

Lithuanian Appeal for U.S. Support Noted

LD2903171790 Moscow TASS in English 1701 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Vilnius March 29 TASS—By TASS special correspondents:

The Lithuanian parliament today urged the United States to recognise and support "the government of the restored Lithuanian Republic". The appeal, made in a letter to the U.S. Congress, was suggested by Parliament President Vytautas Landsbergis.

The U.S. Senate a week ago passed a bill on Lithuania, which was summed up in the Soviet Union as "blatant interference" in its domestic affairs and "an act contradicting the standards and principles of international law".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told reporters at a Moscow briefing Tuesday that "the Soviet side is more interested than anybody else in defusing the situation in Lithuania by political dialogue".

"The Senate's attempt to influence the pace and nature of processes under way in this country aggravates the situation in the Baltic republic—it is not helping us reach a settlement," he argued.

A warning against similar demarches either in the Lithuanian parliament or in the U.S. Congress was voiced by Archbishop Julionas Stepanavicius of Vilnius in an interview published by the Italian newspaper REPUBBLICA today.

While supporting Lithuanian independence, he warned the incumbent Lithuanian leadership against acting rashly. "The issue of timing is not a secondary one. Moreover, it may prove decisive. Separation from the USSR should be carefully pondered with regard for all ensuing consequences from the military, political and economic standpoints," he pleaded.

"Hot heads want everything right away. But I think it is a mistake, for instance, to claim that all Lithuanian servicemen are free from their commitments to the Red Army and should desert. We need to have agreements on these matters, and we need to act calmly," Archbishop Stepanavicius said.

He said people should not forget that the recent free elections in Lithuania and the creation of the present parliament became possible thanks to perestroyka, spearheaded by Mikhail Gorbachev, and to greater democracy in the country.

Also today, the Soviet Defence Ministry's press centre reported that all deserters rounded up by paratroopers in an operation in Lithuania recently have been sent back to their units and that the Army Command intends to follow this course of action in the future as well.

The Ministry, a General Staff spokesman told TASS, has decided not to prosecute Lithuanian deserters who give themselves up and agree to continue their military service.

Landsbergis Criticizes Sweden's Stance on Events

LD2903111490 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 0930 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We begin with foreign policy. Sweden is sharpening its criticism of the Soviet actions in Lithuania. The Advisory Council for Foreign Affairs agreed on a statement at a meeting on Wednesday [28 March] which says, among other things, that the intervention by the Soviet military risks the aggravation of an already serious situation. The government and the nonsocialist parties thus now agree on a common stand on the events in Lithuania.

But before that, a new statement by Foreign Minister Sten Andersson on the Lithuanian question was about the destruction of unity. It was a statement which has also been harshly criticized in Lithuania by President Landsbergis.

The statement was made by Foreign Minister Sten Andersson in an interview for the Swedish News Agency TT on Tuesday. In the interview, Sten Andersson said, among other things, that he can understand the impatience of the Lithuanians, but, he continued, they have to deal with a superpower, and the Soviet Union has, despite everything, shown a manner which no superpower has done earlier. Foreign Minster Sten Andersson mentioned as an example the United States and Panama. [passage omitted]

The statement by Foreign Minister Sten Andersson also irritated Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, who, at a press conference in Vilnius on Wednesday, leveled very harsh criticism against Sweden and the Swedish foreign minister. Our correspondent in Vilnius, Vladislav Savic, reports:

[Savic] Sweden has adopted a very peculiar position, and it is changing all the time. It is weak, changeable, and erroneous. The comparison between Lithuania and Panama is a scandal, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said immediately after the international press conference at which Sweden was publicly scolded. It was Sten Andersson's statement on Tuesday that Landsbergis was, mildly speaking, irritated about. The statement shows that Sweden is in a position of being very strongly dependent on Moscow, the Lithuanian president said, and in order to make this clearer, Landsbergis says:

[Begin recording in English] [Landsbergis] A pro-Muscovite position.

[Question] What is your message to Sweden now?

[Landsbergis] [Words indistinct] for Sweden, for Sweden's people, to have a clear, clear and strong position. [end recording]

[Savic] A pro-Muscovite position. Asked what message he had for Sweden, Landsbergis replied: To adopt a position—not for the Swedish Government, but the Swedish people—to adopt a clear, clear, strong position, for the good of Sweden, not for our good. Landsbergis continued: for the best of all regions of Baltic countries [words indistinct]. For the best of this entire region, for Baltoscandia, for Baltoscandia's future, Landbergis said, who, with this, introduced a new concept.

In conclusion, Landsbergis, in order to ease the criticism of the Swedish Social Democrats, but also Social Democrats in other countries, states their conservatism is in such contrast to the name of Social Democracy.

Lithuania Assails 'Misinformation' on Volunteers

LD2903161790 Vilnius International Service in English 2130 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The registration of volunteers in Lithuania is becoming a pretext for spreading misinformation throughout the channels of the Soviet mass media, which assert that Lithuania is building its armed forces. The newspaper VALSTYBES ZINIOS, State News, published by the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian Republic, reveals the real goals of the action. According to one of its initiators, Arturas Kucas, the registration of volunteers is an attempt to forestall certain events. Neither the Lithuanian parliament nor the government has passed any documents on mobilization, while the draft law on military conscription is only being drawn up.

However, Arturas Kucas says, the situation in Lithuania and outside it clearly demands that in case of need the Lithuanian government should be able to recruit border guards, customs services, and units for maintaining public order. The registration of possibly competent people for these tasks is the sole aim of the action that the popular movement Sajudis has now undertaken, notes Arturas Kucas, a member of the Sajudis executive council. He emphasizes that there are no grounds for allegations on special training of the volunteers, issuing them uniforms, or paying them salaries.

Union Party Member Interviewed on Military Force

PM3003082490 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Interview with CPSU Central Committee member Nikolay Shishlin by correspondent David Smith on 27 March in Moscow on Channel 4 "News" program—recorded]

[Text] [Smith] Why has military force been used—contrary to everything we've been told in Moscow?

[Shishlin] I think that we shall not use military force, but we had to use force in order to implement laws, and you know that no tanks, no guns are used, and will be used, there.

[Smith] Is that a guarantee—that you will not use... that you will not go any further now?

[Shishlin] I'm quite sure of that: That is out of our plans. We can't use force.

[Smith] You say you can't use force, but you have already. How do you justify, for example, going into a psychiatric hospital this morning and taking out deserters?

[Shishlin] But I think in each army exists such rules that deserters must be punished, and this regiment, I think, was used in order to take deserters.

[Smith] Who's giving the orders at the moment—Mr. Gorbachev or the Army? Is the Army taking action by itself?

[Shishlin] No, no, that's impossible for our president to do with everything, so it was a decision of the military staff.

[Smith] Are you saying that Gorbachev had nothing to do with this?

[Shishlin] I'm quite sure of that, and Gorbachev described his position quite clearly: He's for political solutions, for political measures.

[Smith] So where does the president stand?

[Shishlin] He's strongly against the use of military force, but he is quite clear and he's quite open with his estimation that Lithuanian leaders must take into account the interests of the whole country and the whole populations of their own republic—or, if they like, of their own state.

[Smith] Is there a danger, though, that the military can take matters into their own hands on the ground in Lithuania and that this could escalate against the wishes of the president?

[Shishlin] Look, everything is possible, but I think that our military forces are under control of the president.

[Smith] Ultimately, is Mr. Gorbachev prepared to let Lithuania go?

[Shishlin] Sure, if he's ready. He's ready, and the right for secession is a holy right, but you can't complement this right, you can't use this right by such extraordinary jumps—not thinking about your own people, not thinking about your neighbors.

General Notes Conscription Problems in Lithuania

LD3003123390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1141 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, 30 Mar (TASS)—"The defense of the socialist fatherland is regarded as one of the very important functions of state in the Soviet Union in accordance with the USSR Constitution and it is a matter for the whole people," Colonel General Grigoriy Krivosheyev, deputy chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces declared. He gave an interview today to a TASS correspondent in connection with the decision of the USSR Council of Ministers on the call-up to the USSR Armed Forces beginning 1 April. This decision is announced simultaneously for the troops by an order of the USSR minister of defense. As Krivosheyev noted, a Council of Ministers decision for the first time in history has replaced an order of the USSR minister of defense. In this way the significance and importance of the call-up to the Army and Navy has been raised and the legal liability of young men for refusing to do military service has been increased.

The general recalled that universal military duty was established in 1918. He noted that in the Soviet Union, service was an honored duty for citizens and the most active form for them to fulfill their duty in the defense of the homeland.

Speaking about the forthcoming call-up into the Army and Navy in Lithuania, the general said specifically, that as a result of the infringement of the USSR Constitution by the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania, conscription work is essentially being cut down in the republic. In some rayons, it is not even possible to establish call-up commissions. Frequently it is impossible to include in their composition representatives of local soviets and party bodies, most of whom, being members of Sajudis, are obstructing conscription work.

General Krivosheyev emphasized that the propaganda campaign is also being conducted among the conscripts. They are being advised to enroll voluntarily in the so-called border defense detachments and other organizations like the "League of Freedom." Certain Supreme Soviet deputies have submitted proposals to evict the officers and staff of the military registration and enlistment offices from the buildings they occupy, and to deprive them and the members of their families of their residence permits. There have been calls to direct the conscripts into specially created bodies of the Lithuanian militia and into labor detachments.

At the same time, the General Staff representative noted that there are in Lithuania, healthy forces that recognize the need to defend the fatherland and regard it as the business of all the republics. "Only philistines can count on others to ensure their own security," General Krivosheyev said in conclusion.

Lithuanian Ministry Official on Gun Controls

LD2903191690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Report by Special Station Correspondent Igor Zorin from Vilnius, including interview with Lieutenant Colonel (Militia) Vaclavas Mikovich Zabarauskas, Lithuanian deputy minister of internal affairs, at Lithuanian Internal Affairs Ministry, on 29 March—recorded]

[Text] [Zorin] If you haven't been to Vilnius for a couple of years, you can't fail to notice the changes. I drove along the familiar Lenin Avenue, but it's already been changed to Gediminas Avenue, although the monument to Lenin still stands, one block further along. As you look at the formerly half- illiterate peasant woman who wrote the first of her almost 30 novels at the age of 50, you realize how much wisdom has been displayed by the Lithuanian people and by the center, so that the slogan that is the only one in the Lithuanian capital's main avenue—A Lithuania without sovereignty is a Lithuania without a future—should not be regarded as being the main thing, and so that this slogan should not be the only one. Yes, the difficult situation in Lithuania has to be resolved by political, legal, and economic means alone. Everyone I had a chance to talk to agreed on this, including today at the session of the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet. A meeting was held at the Lithuanian Ministry of Internal Affairs. I talked to Lieutenant-Colonel (Militia) Vaclavas Mikovich Zabarauskas, deputy minister of internal affairs of the Lithuanian Republic. The topic of the conversation was occasioned by the fact that, at midnight today, the seven-day deadline expired for the surrender of weapons and hunting weapons by the population of Lithuania in accordance with the decree of the USSR president.

[Begin recording] [Zabarauskas] The situation is such that, of the 29,000 rifles that are in the possession of hunters, our hunters have surrendered 1,500—1,500 rifles—while the remainder are still in their hands. There were very big differences in the numbers handed in. More were handed in in the city of Vilnius, in Vilnius's Salcininkai rayon, but there are rayons where a single firearm has not been handed in at all. Not many were surrendered in the town of Kaunas.

[Zorin] What steps are to be taken by your ministry?

[Zabarauskas] We shall continue explaining to the population about the impermissibility of the use of these weapons after the expiry of the deadline. Our Government has adopted a decision saying that, if the forced confiscation of those weapons is imminent, people are recomended to hand over hunting and sporting guns to Internal Affairs bodies. The Internal Affairs bodies are obliged to ensure their safekeeping and to guarantee that the weapons are not taken out of the republic.

[Zorin] Lithuania is slowly and methodically leaving the composition of the Soviet Union. How do you see the role of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is, I imagine, subordinate to the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs?

[Zabarauskas] Lithuania is leaving the former union, but I don't think that we shall be breaking off relations inside a new Union. We are neighbors, and one cannot fully isolate oneself from neighboring countries. We have a very integrated economy. We understand all that perfectly and realistically, and so, in our service, purely in the militia service, we cannot live without links with the Union. However, we shall independently adopt laws and, in general, implement them independently. There will be more independence. However, relations with the Union ministry are inevitable.

[Zorin] In Moscow, in Russia, there are rumors to the effect that in Lithuania, the current parliament is drawing up a draft law, either on parties or on public organizations, which allegedly copies the notorious Stalin-regime Article 58/1—that is, political propaganda against the existing regime. It is said that measures are being contemplated to mete out sentences of five, six, or 10 years. Those are the rumors. Refute them or tell us how things really are.

[Zabarauskas] Excuse me, but I'll just advise you to place less trust in rumors about Lithuania and about what is happening here, and more trust in objective information.

[Zorin] That's what I'm waiting to hear from you—objective information on the subject.

[Zabarauskas] No, that's a rumor. It's a rumor. It's not substantiated by anything. As to whether there'll be a decision or whether such a document will be adopted, I personally haven't seen anything and don't know.

[Zorin] In other words, the Ministry of Internal Affairs did not participate in drawing up such a draft law?

[Zabarauskas] No, it did not participate. Although such a question does feature on the agenda of the session.

[Zorin] I thank you for the interview, and would like to say in conclusion that, while travelling around the Lithuanian capital several times today, I didn't see any signs of extremist manifestations. Life is embarking on a new channel. One of the independent states, one of the Union republics, which, according to the USSR Constitution, has the right to self-determination, is renewing itself. [end recording]

Official's Request To See Gorbachev Denied

LD2903221190 Vilnius Domestic Service in English 2130 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] So far Moscow has given no hope that talks, or at least dialogue, can be started with it. This was said to home and foreign journalists by a Lithuanian MP [Member of Parliament] Egidyus Bichkauskas, who returned to Lithuania tonight after spending three days in Moscow.

According to Egidyus Bichkauskas, who is a lawyer and member of the Presidium of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, everything depends now on Mikhail Gorbachev. The Lithuanian envoy asked twice to be received by the Soviet president but got no official answer from him.

At a news conference tonight Egidyus Bichkauskas denied the widespread allegations that Lithuania itself was reluctant to start talks with Moscow and that it had turned its back upon the East, being oriented only to the West. That is not true, said Egidyus Bichkauskas, and the presence of Lithuanian envoys in Moscow attests [to] Lithuania's willingness to begin talks with the Soviet Union.

At present we would agree to discuss the terms of future talks under any conditions on all issues and levels. Of course the issue of Lithuania's political independence itself is not subject to negotiation. Regrettably Moscow is unwilling to meet us half way, said Lithuanian MP Egidyus Bichkauskas at a news conference tonight straight on arriving from Moscow.

USSR Citizens' Committees Set up in Lithuania

LD2903135690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Committees of Citizens of the USSR are being set up in Lithuania. Dobychin, deputy chairman of the republican Committee and first secretary of the Oktyabrskiy Rayon Committee of the Communist Party of the Lithuania on the platform of the CPSU has told a TASS correspondent of the reasons for forming them and the aims they are set.

As a result of the situation that has developed, citizens of the USSR in the republic are actually deprived of stable legal guarantees and social protection. The Supreme Soviet of Lithuania is continuing to ignore the decision of the third session of USSR people's deputies and to take legal acts which do not take into account the interests of many thousands of citizens of the USSR. There are actually no deputies representing and defending their interests in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Although the Supreme Soviet has confirmed their power, it should be taken into account that many of the deputies themselves do not intend to fulfill the obligations placed upon them in accordance with the status of people's deputy.

Tension can be felt in the republic, growing from day to day. It may even be said that it is being whipped up by the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania. The creation of Committees of Citizens of the USSR was a reaction to this, or rather, one form of protest. Branches of committees have already been set up at many enterprises in Vilnius, Snechkus, Klaipeda, and Kaunas. We consider that Committees of Citizens of the USSR should assume the defense of the political, economic, social and judicial rights, and of the interests and liberties of citizens of the USSR living in Lithuania. The Committee has already appealed to the USSR Supreme Soviet to give its representatives the opportunity to speak at the session of the Soviet parliament, expounding their proposals and demands.

Speaking of the long-term tasks of the Committee, Comrade Dobychin stressed that while unconditionally supporting the right of the nation to self-determination, up to separation, the Committee will nevertheless insist that the implementation of that right should proceed legally. The question of self-determination, he said, should be resolved only by means of a nationwide referendum, and we will insist that the referendum take place with the unconditional observation of two conditions. In the first place, it must be preceded by a genuinely democratic atmosphere in the republic. That is absent today. That is connected both with the monopolization by Sajudis of the mass media and with the direct pressure which has appeared recently by the leadership of the republic on those who think differently [inakomyslyashchii]. The second condition is that the referendum take place only after the adoption of the law On the Procedure for the Secession of the Republic from the USSR. Every citizen going to the ballot box should have a clear idea of what secession will mean for the whole republic and for him personally.

Describing the situation in the republic, Comrade Dobychin noted in particular that the further development of events will depend primarily on the work of the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania. If the marathon of the adoption of anticonstitutional decisions, from the viewpoint of the fundamental law of the USSR, continues, if the rupture in relations with the USSR grows, the situation will continue to become more complex, he concluded.

What could stabilize the situation? It is necessary to halt the conveyor of the adoption of laws, to interpret calmly the situation. The Committee of the Citizens of the USSR, in its turn, is open for dialogue and even proposes it. Unfortunately so far, such a dialogue is being rejected.

Vice-Chairman Dobychin Interviewed

LD2903135190 Moscow TASS in English 1337 GMT 29 Mar 90

[By TASS special corespondents]

[Text] Vilnius March 29 TASS—The situation in Lithuania remains complex and contradictory owing to illegimate actions by its newly-elected leaders. "In this situation, Soviet citizens in Lithuania are effectively denied solid legal guarantees and social protection," Vyacheslav Dobychin, vice-chairman of the Lithuanian Committee of Soviet Citizens, told reporters.

He said that the Lithuanian parliament is continuing, in defiance of the Federal legislature's protests, to enact bills that fail to consider the interests of thousands upon thousands of Soviet citizens.

The creation of the Soviet Citizens' Committee is a sign of popular unhappiness with these measures. It now has branches at many factories in Vilnius, Sneckus, Klaipeda, and Kaunass. The Committee has urged the central parliament to give its representatives a possibility to address it and air their grievances and demands.

Dobychin said that, while wholly supporting the right of nations to self-determination, including secession, the Committee insists that the right be exercised in a legal way.

"The issues of self-determination should be solved only by a nationwide referendum," he stressed. "And this must be held only after a truly democratic atmosphere is achieved in the republic. Today, it is lacking."

"This is because of the monopolisation of the mass media by Sajudis and the republican leadership's pressure on dissidents, which has lately become direct. In addition, a referendum must be preceded by the adoption of a law detailing secession procedures," Dobychin said.

The Soviet General Military Staff, in the meantime, has set up a special commission to track down Lithuanian deserters, of whom there are now over 250, and return them to their regular places of service.

Lieutant-General Frants Markovsky of the General Staff told TASS that Army representatives "have visited the families of 97 such servicemen. In 40 cases, the parents assured them that their children, who have yielded to provocation, will resume their service. Some of the parents also demanded guarantees that their sons will not face criminal responsibility."

"In 42 families, the embittered parents said they were keen to help us, but did not know themselves where their sons were. No reasoning and appeals for common sense and for parental wisdom, however, worked with the parents of the other 15 deserters," General Markovsky said.

He disclosed that 51 deserters have already been sent back to their units.

The Soviet Defence Ministry has decided not to prosecute Lithuanian deserters who give themselves up and agree to resume their service, a General Military Staff spokesman told TASS.

Unrepenting deserters, however, will be tracked down, apprehended and punished in line with the law, he added.

Polish Social Democrats Support Social Cause

LD2903191390 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1634 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Report by unidentified deputy to Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius on 29 March—from the live relay]

[Text] On behalf of my Social Democrat colleagues, I wish to read you a letter from Warsaw. It is written in the form of a resolution. Decision of the Main Administration Presidium to the PPS, that is, the Polish Socialist Party, concerning the question of Lithuania's independence.

PPS expresses deep joy at the restoration of Lithuania's independence. We await from the Government of the Polish Republic, not only its formal recognition, but also all possible; according to possibilities and needs, economic assistance for independent Lithuania in establishing routes of transport for possible coal supplies.

We extend our hearty congratulations to Lithuania's Social Democrats in the hope of close cooperation with them.

Signed: PPS Main Council Chairman Jan Jozef Lipski, Main Administration Presidium Secretary (Inglanowski) and yet another signature.

12 March 1990 Warsaw.

Lithuanian, USSR Economic Relations Viewed

LD2903135790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2230 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Economic relations between Lithuania and the USSR are a subject which is currently becoming more and more topical. At the request of Valeriy Kyosa, our correspondent, Aleksandr Nikolayevich Troshin, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee], shared with us some of his reflections on this:

[Begin Troshin recording] The republic has been developing as part of the USSR for 50 years. It is linked with the country's national economic complex. The interindustrial balance numbers 103 branches, the republic imports the produce of 101 branches and exports the produce of 83 branches. [figures as heard] These three figures speak for themselves, showing how great the republic's ties with the other Union republics are. These are serious mutual ties and it will surely hardly be possible to change them overnight. Actually, Lithuania's new leadership, aware of how difficult it is to change it, does not raise the question of rupturing economic relations. But, very many questions indeed arise in connection with it. In connection with it I would like to say that while remaining in favor of retaining economic ties with the USSR, it is hardly possible to retain them when the question is posed in the way in which the leaders of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] pose it, namely that these economic ties ought to be retained on conditions which are advantageous to Lithuania alone. I have in mind the deliveries of the same quantities of all types of raw materials and the retention of the same prices which are currently more advantageous for Lithuania than other Union republics. It is hardly possible to retain this because even the center will be unable to influence these processes. Union republics will, too, exert a very active influence on these processes. That is why the conclusion arrived at by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet's commission charged with preparing a plan for restoring Lithuania's independence contains what can surely hardly be called a realistic approach. Let me read some lines from this document: The draft treaty must provide for a retention of the existing economic ties, above all in the fuel and power engineering industry. For a period of several years the current settlement prices must be either retained or, at least, a gradual transition to world market prices must be ensured.

I think that what must be ensured above all is an equal exchange, and the hopes nurtured by the new leaders of Lithuania are hardly realistic. Nevertheless, I want to say that in no way do I see this issue as us currently advocating some sort of economic sanctions against the republic. No, it is categorically not so. This, again, is due to the simple reason that people live there, a population which for 50 years has been working as part of the USSR. [end recording]

USSR Ministers Visit Lithuanian Enterprises

18200500 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 22 Mar 90 p 2

[ELTA report: "Possibly the Beginning of a Dialogue"]

[Text] Several days ago 12 deputy ministers of the USSR were guests in Lithuania. They visited many enterprises of union subordination. On 20 March, in the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian Republic, the ministry representatives met with Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas and Chief of the Industrial Department Pyatras Navikas.

At the meeting the guests noted that the USSR Government was troubled over the current economic situation in Lithuania, P. Navikas said. They were interested in long-range reprofiling of the union-subordinate enterprises and about supply problems. In the first quarter of this year they guaranteed to supply Lithuania with material resources as long as the Lithuanian enterprises will fulfill all agreements on time. Both sides agreed that a breakdown in economic ties would be harmful both for the USSR and for Lithuania.

Algirdas Brazauskas assured the representatives of the union departments that Lithuania's enterprises would fulfill their reponsibilities to enterprises and organizations of the USSR as long as they were supplied with the necessary raw materials and other materials.

Lithuanian Communist Youth League Formed

90UN1284B Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 13 Mar 90 p 3

[ELTA report: "One More Youth Organization"]

[Text] The Leninist Communist Youth League of Lithuania has been formed in the republic. Its program, rules, and structure were approved at a constituent joint council held 10-11 March in Vilnius.

Each citizen of Lithuania aged 14 to 32 who approves of the basic documents of the Lithuanian LKSM [Leninist Communist Youth League] and the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] may be a member of the organization. A principal goal is to unite the youth for the building of a socialist society. The Lithuanian LKSM advocates a sovereign, democratic, law-based republic in which the political, economic, and social rights of each citizen are guaranteed, and a dialogue with all youth organizations of the republic.

Contrasting Scenes From Lithuania Pictured

PM2903115990

[Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 March 1990 First Edition carries on page 4 under the headline "Lithuania, March 1990" a "photofeature" on the situation in Lithuania comprising three photographs, with captions reading: "For Soviet unity—pickets outside the Lithuanian Communist Party Central

Committee building"; "Publication of newspaper SOVETSKAYA LITVA resumed. Workers at the 'Elfa' Production Association receiving it again"; and "Weapons handed in."

Landsbergis, Deputies Give Press Conference

90UN1284A Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 13 Mar 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Sajudis Information Agency Reports"]

[Text] Vilnius—A press conference was held during the night of 11-12 March in the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Lithuanian Republic with foreign journalists accredited to the Supreme Soviet session. The following took part in the press conference: Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet; his deputies Bronyus Kuzmitskas, Kazimeras Moteka, and Cheslovas Stankyavichyus; Lyudvikas Sabutis, secretary of the Supreme Soviet; Kazimera Prunskiene, acting chairman of the republic Council of Ministers; Yustas Paletskis, secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party; and Supreme Soviet deputies Kazimeras Antanavichyus, Cheslovas Yurshenas, Mechis Laurinkus, Aloizas Sakalas, and Emanuelis Zingeris. We present an abridged stenographic account of the press conference.

Question to Vytautas Landsbergis: "What fate awaits the KGB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD)?"

Answer: "...Lithuania simply could not pretend to join the detachment of independent states were some of its departments to be directed from Moscow.... Both the KGB and the MVD must now be under the jurisdiction only of the Lithuanian Republic. How we manage this is not only up to us...."

Question: "Have you sounded out our decisions in the capitals of European states? What is the position of Mr. Statis Lozoraytis, representative of the Lithuanian Republic in Washington and at the Holy See?"

V. Landsbergis replies: "I have not. We have made all decisions relying merely on our own aims and least of all looking both to East and West.... We have recently begun to institute relations with foreign political movements and parties. This is preparing the ground for interstate contacts.... We have sent Mr. S. Lozoraytis today's decrees. What attitude he expresses toward them, we will hear.... We hope that the policy of the United States will be consistent in the legal respect, friendly and magnanimous...."

Question: "Did you foresee the nonelection of Algirdas Brazauskas as chairman of the Supreme Soviet and how do you evaluate his refusal to become deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet?"

Yu. Paletskis responds: "... We had not discussed this possibility in advance. In the future much will change, offices also, possibly...."

Ch. Yurshenas replies: "...A. Brazauskas lost not as a man, but as the representative of a particular concept. Inasmuch as the rejection of this concept was very clear, he had no other choice...."

Question to K. Moteka: "Did the new Supreme Soviet have the right to enact a new, albeit temporary, basic law of the republic?"

Answer: "...We are only continuing what was the case in the Lithuanian state. For this reason such a step of ours should not cause any misgivings...."

The press conference was chaired by Aleksandras Abishalas, Supreme Soviet deputy and head of the "Sajudis" Sejm.

Sakalauskas Resignation Speech to Supreme Soviet

90UN1211B Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 10 Feb 90 p 2

[Speech by V. Sakalauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers, under the rubric "17th Session of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th Convocation"]

[Text] Respected deputies and guests of the session! We are all working and living in an unusually complicated and impetuous time in a whirlwind of political and economic events and a variety of opinions, emotions, and passions. This whirlwind has also touched me. As difficult and bitter as it may be, under the pressure of current circumstances I have sent the Supreme Soviet my resignation. I am prematurely relinquishing my authority as leader of the government.

Many deputies are asking why I am doing this. There are many reasons.

I am taking this decisive step after long and deep consideration. I wrote out my resignation at the end of last year. In accordance with my post and on the basis of the USSR Constitution, I am entering the USSR Council of Ministers. As a result, I also informed comrades M.S. Gorbachev and N.I. Ryzhkov of my intentions in December.

I have worked many years without sparing myself for the good of Lithuania. However it is only possible to work creatively and at full capacity when you feel that society approves and supports you. As you know, in spring of last year I lost in the elections for USSR people's deputy, and that must necessarily have an effect on my authority. More than once various accusations have been brought against me and my resignation has been demanded. You must agree that this can unsettle a person and affect any purposeful, consistent work. Some people see indecisiveness in my work to achieve the republic's economic autonomy and its independence. I answer this reproach briefly: I love Lithuania and I wish a good future for it no less than those who shout so loudly. However, feeling a great burden of responsibility I cannot always support impatience, thoughtlessness, or efforts to destabilize political and economic life for fear that they may bring difficulty upon the residents of Lithuania.

I have heard that USSR People's Deputy V. Landsbergis accused me yesterday of some kind of treason. I categorically deny this. I do and will do only that which benefits Lithuania and will improve its situation. But I will never be reconciled with maximalism. We have lost much time demanding everything and receiving nothing. V. Landsbergis mentioned the last session of the USSR Council of Ministers. Yes, in that the session I worked together with V. Sharka, R. Sikorskis, and B. Povilaytis. Only K. Prunskiene did not take part. She, you see, had to leave early, although she should have taken part in the work of the session. Yes, I said there that we have had enough of hurrying along and that we needed to begin working. It was as a result of this, apparently, that a decree was drawn up which was signed yesterday by representatives of the four Councils of Ministers—N. Ryzhkov, I. Toome, V. Bresis, and myself. Is this treason? And whose? At that same session of the Council of Ministers I heatedly raised the question of supplying our farmers with mixed fodder. The result: V. Nikitin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, was charged with studying this problem again together with the republics. It is a pity that V. Knashis did not take part in the examination of this question, considering it none of his business. Whose is it then? And will the Council of Ministers once again betray someone? Before you accuse someone, you should think twice. You will see many things differently.

I would like to speak separately about a few considerations on the occasion of K. Prunskiene's report which her assistant gave last Sunday at the conference of the Lithuanian Movement for Perestroyka. I did not hear or read that report. I was in Moscow, as you know. However, I am basing my comments on the article in the newspaper LETUVOS RITAS. She states that the creation of a republic commission on economic reform and the designation of K. Prunskiene as chairman of that commission and as deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers is a desire to demonstrate that perestroyka is under way but that there are efforts to preserve unchanged all the positions in the basic structures of the Council of Ministers apparat. And she expressed her opinion that the apparat of the Council of Ministers is obstructing her work. Apparently it is no accident that at this session the USSR people's deputies raised the question of the inadequacy of the role of the executive power and specifically of my role in implementing economic independence. Therefore today I must explain the true situation to the deputies.

The position of deputy chairman of the Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers and chairman of a republic commission on economic reform was entrusted to K. Prunskiene so that she could quickly begin resolving all the difficult issues concerning the implementation of our economic independence. K. Prunskiene created a department of economic reform in the Council of Ministers apparat, which she filled with young, energetic, but inexperienced workers. And almost none of the other associates of the Council of Ministers apparat were included in this work, many of whom are competent and possess the necessary experience. They really were and are able to help. By decision of the Council of Ministers, the commissions on economic reform were granted the authority to enlist the services of workers of all the republic's ministries and departments, and the latter were obligated to take an active part in the resolution of all questions of reform.

However the commission and the groups it has created to prepare a law are trying to get by without experienced workers, and in some cases they even act in direct contradiction to the latter. For some reason there has been a modest silence about the fact that substantial resources have been allotted for the work of the commission on economic reform and for the salaries of its members. Comrade K. Prunskiene has not once presented any issues to the Council of Ministers Presidium for discussion, has not raised issues at production conferences, and has not addressed me personally. Moreover, she has constantly tried to cut herself off, and the discussion of the draft law on local self-management in the Council of Ministers was presented to the public as interference in the work of the commission on economic reform. Therefore I take full responsibility in declaring that it is not only unjust but dishonest to accuse the Council of Ministers and its apparat of slowing down the implementation of economic reforms.

As she decides issues of economic independence, Kazimera Prunskiene feels too independent and does not consult either with me or with the other deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers. Of course independence is a good cause, but any idea, especially one that concerns such important things, should be discussed, because not everything turns out as expected. Kazimera Prunskiene and the commission on economic reforms that she heads are knotted in endless discussions, and she has neglected concrete organizational work. According to the plan, several laws resolving problems of economic independence should already have been adopted by September of last year, but not one of them has yet been passed. Actually, the first one was passed today. And the Estonians have already adopted about 10 such laws. I repeat that the assertion that K. Prunskiene is hindered in her work is completely unfounded, and I should not be accused of what I have not done. You yourselves personally answer for that work. I believe that we must be more self-critical, look more often to ourselves, quit searching, as they say, for scapegoats, and quit making others pull our chestnuts out of the fire. The government of the republic understands that issues of the efficient implementation of economic independence are very complex and that a multitude of obstacles must be overcome both in the center and locally. A single theory is not enough here. The desired economic independence will not appear by magic. Understand that all this can be achieved only if we unite forces.

We must always and in everything be cautious, insightful, and self-disciplined and we must not lead the people into uncertainty. In a word, my motto was to avoid extremes, unconsidered actions, suspiciousness, and opposition among people. I have to send in my resignation at a genuinely difficult time for Lithuania and its residents. Do not think that I laid aside my powers because I was afraid of the difficulties. That was not the reason, as I have explained.

The situation in the republic is genuinely complicated. Political tension is growing, the economy is going through a crisis, inflation continues to press harder, the stores are empty, and crime is increasing. I would not say that the republic's government, and I personally and my deputies, alone are guilty of this. This is the result of a general crisis that has seized the entire Soviet Union. In addition I do not affirm, and I never will permit myself to affirm, that we did not make any mistakes. First and foremost, I believe that we did not find effective measures for stabilizing the market and for solving the accumulated economic and social problems of the countryside, nor did we succeed in making significant advances in the development of the production of consumer goods. It seems to me that today everyone is too occupied with politics, and work has been moved to the background. We have not worked out effective means to tighten up the slack discipline or to motivate each person to want to work better. But everyone is familiar with a simple truth: As we work, so we live. One might try to say that my thoughts are motivated by my emotions. However, it is also possible that even this motive is important to me. Of course, another question might also arise: Is my request not the result of the criticism that "Sajudis" raised against the government last Sunday? Not at all. As you have heard, I wrote out my resignation significantly earlier. I will say to you frankly that I had to expect criticism. During the session before last they tried to give me a vote of no confidence. But you, respected deputies, did not support it, and I am sincerely grateful to you for that. But the leaders of the opposition parties and movements decided to raise all of Lithuania to its feet and force me to submit my resignation. As a result I consider the new wave of criticism of the government that was raised at the "Sajudis" conference to be a continuation of their work.

Respected comrades! I must say candidly that difficult trials await Lithuania. The success of the great changes that are taking place in politics, economics, and society will be defined by decisions that are scientifically based, realistic, considered from all sides, and constructive. Therefore I would like with all my heart to wish the current and future leadership of the republic every success, tenacity, wisdom and that it not lose a sense of reality, and the main point—that it be an advocate of the aspirations of its people. Right now the most important thing, perhaps, is not to obstruct one another as we travel with great difficulty the road of perestroyka but rather to consolidate all the forces of society and to be united. We are being watched not only by the residents of Lithuania but also by the world public. Therefore let us be worthy of respect. With my whole heart I wish the government of Lithuania and the inhabitants of my country harmony, well-being, and happiness. In conclusion, I once more ask the Supreme Soviet to release me from the post of chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

On Vytautas Sakalauskas' request to be released from the duties of chairman of the Council of Ministers, 62 deputies voted in favor, 140 voted against, and 20 abstained.

Thanking them for their confidence, V. Sakalauskas said, "I will try to work as I have worked. I only ask one thing: Stop the blackmail. I address myself to the USSR people's deputies."

Then Algirdas **Brazauskas**, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, addressed the deputies:

"Discussion of the last question has once more shown how difficult and complicated it is to work in our time—not only for V. Sakalauskas, as chairman of the Council of Ministers, but also for many others who hold important posts. Therefore I would like first of all to address the government, headed by V. Sakalauskas, in which our parliament has once again expressed its confidence. This government does not have very long to work. It is hard to say what the new one will be like, but we all hope that it will be qualified to decide the internal matters of Lithuania and the very many matters in Moscow. Many people think that this work has already been done. Unfortunately there are still many problems, especially in the realm of economics, that we will have to solve.

"We must work very seriously to implement the Law on Economic Independence. I agree with many of the points made by V. Sakalauskas. K. Prunskiene is devoting all her strength and knowledge to this matter, but more than just one or two or five people are needed for this. Therefore we need to unite all our forces: members of the government and the leaders of the economic services. And if we are only going to accuse one another or search for reasons in any other place than our own, matters will not advance and we will make no headway. Let us forget about disagreement and let us search each person for those good qualities which can and should be used to solve our common problems. We are all prepared to come to the aid of both V. Sakalauskas and K. Prunskiene as well as the other deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers. Our efficiency is still not great enough because we continue to go in different directions. I often meet with Estonians, and they have advanced much further than us because they work systematically, they do not look for the motes in others' eyes, and they try to find common solutions.

"We all bear a great responsibility before the Lithuanian people. Yesterday a decree was passed concerning the elimination of the 1939 Soviet-German negotiations and their consequences. It obliges us to consolidate. Only unity and cooperation can be the pledge of success in all these matters."

"I am very sorry," said deputy Romualdas **Ozolas**, "that the question of V. Sakalauskas was presented in personal terms. We already said that it should be discussed in a wider context. It is apparent that one could also find new shades of meaning in this resignation and, perhaps, in this decision. I have a specific proposal. In this context I reproach L. Shepitis, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who managed it so that the matter would be conducted in exactly this manner, without discussion. I repeat once more that in Lithuania there is an evident political crisis as well as a crisis of the executive power. The crisis is that such matters are discussed and then adopted or not adopted in this manner. Having thought much about the matter, I propose that we return to the question of the political crisis in Lithuania and our opportunities to resolve it. I request that we do not make a decision now, but rather later when we have calmed down and have made our individual decisions."

Lithuanian Decree on 1939 Pact Issued

90UN1211A Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 9 Feb 90 p 1

[Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet decree, Vilnius, 7 February 1990: "On the Soviet-German Negotiations of 1939 and the Elimination of Their Consequences for Lithuania"]

[Text] The Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, affirming the conclusion of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet commission to study the Soviet-German negotiations of 1939 and their consequences,

—stating that the elections to the People's Sejm which took place 14-15 July 1940 were in violation of the Constitution of the Lithuanian republic,

—condemning the aggression against Lithuania, its occupation and annexation as international crimes committed in 1940 by the Stalinist USSR upon implementation of its 1939 secret pact with Hitler's Germany,

—noting that the USSR Congress of People's Deputies in its 24 December 1989 decree acknowledged this secret pact to be groundless and invalid from the moment it was signed,

—and seeking to eliminate the consequences of this pact for Lithuania and to restore the violated rights of the Lithuanian state and the Lithuanian people which Soviet Russia acknowledged in perpetuity in the 12 July 1920 peace treaty between Soviet Russia and Lithuania, **decrees**

1. To announce that the 21 July 1940 declaration of the People's Sejm of Lithuania concerning Lithuania's entry into the USSR, which does not express the will of the Lithuanian people, is illegal and invalid.

2. To declare that the 3 August 1940 USSR Law "On Admitting the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," which was based on the 21 July 1940 declaration of the People's Sejm of Lithuania, is invalid and not legally binding on Lithuania.

3. To propose that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics begin bilateral negotiations on the restoration of the independence of the Lithuanian state.

[Signed] A. Brazauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.
L. Sabutis, secretary of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Lithuanian Local Soviet Elections Reported

LD2903212690 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1255 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Vilnius, 29 March—TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila reports:

The republican electoral commission has summed up the official results of the 24 March elections of deputies to Lithuanian local soviets.

"In accordance with the law adopted by the republic's Supreme Soviet on elections to local organs of power, in 557 town, rayon, settlement, and rural soviets of Lithuania it is necessary to elect 9,331 deputies," Academician Yuozas Bulavas, chairman of the republican electoral commission, said in a conversation with a TASS correspondent. "In an absolute majority of constituencies the elections were carried out on a multi-seat basis. The names of almost 19,000 candidates were entered on the voting papers. So, there was an average of over two candidates contesting each deputy's seat."

Yu. Bulavas noted that on the whole the elections took place in an organized manner. About 65 percent of the inhabitants having the right to participate in the elections actually voted. They elected 7,088 deputies, that is 75.8 percent of all deputies' seats have already been determined.

About half of the corps of the deputies elected to local soviets is made up of workers and collective farmers. Deputies' seats were gained by 6,028 Lithuanians. Some 821 Poles, 142 Russians and also representatives of other national communities of the republic have become members of the local organs of power. About 34 percent of those elected (2,432 deputies) represent the independent Communist Party of Lithuania. Some 428 supporters of the Communist Party of Lithuania on the CPSU platform became deputies as did representatives of the Democratic, Social-Democratic and Christian- Democratic parties, the "Green" party and also various social movements.

According to the laws operating in the republic, a local soviet can begin work only after three quarters of its composition has been elected. In these conditions few local soviets could begin their activities after the first round of the elections. Therefore, at the suggestion of the republican electoral commission, the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet today introduced the appropriate changes in the law on elections of local soviets of Lithuania.

The repeat elections of deputies to local soviets which are to be organized in 528 constituencies are planned to be held on 7 April, and supplementary ones on 12-13 May.

Supplementary elections of deputies to the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet are to be held in eight constituencies on 7 April. There are 25 candidates contesting the Supreme Soviet deputies' seats.

More Election Results

PM3003135990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 30 Mar 90 First Edition p 1

[TASS correspondent report under general heading "On Situation in Lithuania": "Results of Elections"]

[Text] The republican election commission has summed up the official results of the 24 March elections of Lithuanian local soviet deputies.

At the request of a TASS correspondent, Academician Yu. Bulavas, chairman of the republican electoral commission, comments on the results. He said that as a whole the elections took place in an organized manner—about 65 percent of inhabitants with the right to take part in the elections went to the ballot boxes. They elected 7,088 deputies, that is 75.8 percent of all deputy seats have already been allocated.

About half the elected deputy corps of the local soviets consists of workers and collective farm members. Deputies' seats were gained by 6,028 Lithuanians. The local organs of power have been joined by 821 Poles, 142 Russians, and representatives of the republic's other national communities. About 34 percent of those elected—2,432 deputies—represent the Independent Lithuanian Communist Party. Some 428 supporters of the Lithuanian Communist Party on the CPSU platform and representatives of the Democratic, Social Democratic, and Christian Democratic parties, the "Greens'" party, and various public movements became deputies.

Repeat elections of local soviet deputies, which have to be held in 528 okrugs, are scheduled for 7 April and additional elections for 12-13 May.

On 7 April additional elections of Lithuanian Supreme Soviet deputies will be held in eight electoral okrugs.

Latvian Supreme Soviet Scheduled To Meet 3 May

LD2903173290 Riga in Latvian to Europe 1730 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Summary] The newly elected deputies of Latvia's Supreme Soviet convened for a meeting today, at which it was envisaged to discuss the situation in Lithuania, Latvia's reaction to it, and also the date of the new Supreme Soviet's first session and questions to be included on its agenda. More than 100 of the elected deputies participated in the meeting; its work was strongly influenced by the difference between the two fractions of deputies at totally opposing positions in the new parliament.

Imants Daudiss, secretary of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, during a break at the meeting, said:

"Well, it must be said immediately, that on the second day of the first session in Lithuania, the Supreme Soviet Presidium sent a telegram signed by Anatolijs Gorbunovs to the Supreme Council of Lithuania congratulating both the people of Lithuania and the new Supreme Council, and its chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, on the adopted declaration on the restoration of independence, expressing its solidarity, and also expressing its support to the people of Lithuania in its self-determination endeavours. This was done right away, and, moreover, in Lithuanian. Likewise, at the same time a telegram was sent also to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, in which we appealed not to use force in solving relations".

There was a discussion at the meeting on the timing of the new Supreme Soviet session, and a majority decided that the session should be convened on 3 May, i.e., after the repeat elections. In replying to a question on further action, Daudiss feels that according to today's meeting, "our opinions and standpoints will be divided. Well, evidently, this is normal under the present-day conditions. Nevertheless, the deputies, supported by the People's Front, will take a stand for supporting the road begun by the Supreme Council of Lithuania. Right at the beginning of May a final decision will be adopted, how to act on this road [words indistinct], if at the first session we determine our republic's political and state status".

Program for Independent Latvian Party Advanced

90UN1135D Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 7 Feb 90 p

[Resolution of the meeting of proponents of restoring an independent Communist Party of Latvia]

[Text] The dynamic processes in the world and Latvia require that the Communist Party of Latvia [KPL] refrain from dogmatic, rigid theory and develop a new ideological platform that is in keeping with the spirit of the times.

Its theoretical basis should be the priority of general human values over the interests of classes and social groups; the ideas of democratic socialism whose roots go back to the European tradition; and also the historical and sociological doctrine of Marx and the experience of the world democratic movement. In our understanding democratic socialism is a society that rests on two main principles: freedom and social guarantees. Freedom in the political and ideological spheres means a constitutionally guaranteed multiparty system, the observance of internationally recognized human rights, and the consistent realization of the principles of freedom of conscience. Freedom in the economic sphere means a diversity of forms of ownership, legal guarantees for the development of private property, a tax system that provides each member of the society with a standard of living worthy of a human being, social security, and the development of culture.

All attempts to introduce communist relations into practice and create a just model of human relations on the basis of complete collectivization of the means of production while rejecting a market economy and political pluralism have led only to social destruction, injustice, and tragedy for individuals and entire nations. Therefore we reject the utopian idea of the construction of a communist society and we consider the question of the name of the party to be essential.

Speaking out in favor of ideological pluralism, we reject the monopoly of any ideology and the subordination of theoretical thought to a political dictatorship.

Our political goal is social justice and an open and democratic society in a free, independent, and law-governed Latvian state in which instead of the administrative system we have created a constitutionally guaranteed system of democracy and self-government.

Instead of totalitarian state power we must realize the principle of division of power. We are in favor of real legislative power, democratically chosen institutions of popular government, executive authority subordinate to them, and an independent court before which absolutely everyone would be equal. Social organizations and also parties based on equal partnership in democratic forms should participate in dialog within the limits determined by the Constitution. The government should be formed according to the principle of a political coalition.

We do not think real stability can be achieved in Europe until the consequences of the criminal pact between Hitler and Stalin are completely eliminated, as long as Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia remain the only European states to whom independence has not been returned after World War II.

In keeping with the will of the people we are in favor of restoring Latvia's independent statehood by internationally recognized democratic methods.

Our goal in foreign policy is to achieve international recognition of an independent Latvian state and its representation in the United Nations and other international organizations. Before restoration of state independence we are in favor of the Latvian SSR's participation in the work of international nongovernmental organizations.

The goal of the economic policy is to provide the republic with real economic independence and the right to dispose of the products it produces and of budget funds. We think that the restoration of the Latvian economy is possible only by transferring all the republic's natural resources over to its actual ownership; gradual liberation of the national economy from departmental jurisdiction; economic guarantee of self-management; and the introduction of its own convertible currency.

The KPL will contribute in all ways to the development of commodity-monetary relations, equal contractual relations, and equivalent exchange on both the domestic and foreign markets, while retaining and expanding all the historically developed and mutually advantageous partnership relations in social division of labor.

Recognizing that compulsory collectivization and unjustifiably rapid rates of industrialization and urbanization have undermined agriculture, we are in favor of immediate agrarian reform and the formation of free economic relations in rural areas. We are in favor of the implementation of a structural policy which would make it possible to overcome the backwardness of our social and cultural life.

The goal of our national policy is to exercise the full and limited right of nations to self-determination in the creation of new and equal relations among sovereign states.

We think that the reason for ethnic conflicts and the appearance of national movements in the USSR are the crimes of Stalinism in ethnic relations and a policy pervaded by unification and bureaucratic centralism. We consider the KPL responsible for the condition of ethnic relations in Latvia.

We condemn the past mistakes and crimes of the Communist Party against the people of Latvia and we regard repressions and other mass crimes as genocide, and their initiators and executors should be held personally liable.

The national policy should be based on the following provisions:

—Latvians are the indigenous nation, and Livonians are the indigenous nationality for whom Latvia is the only place in the world where they can exist and their language and culture can develop;

—all ethnic groups of Latvia have a right to cultural autonomy and constitutional protection of their rights;

—Latvia is and should remain a unitary, indivisible state.

We condemn propaganda and any manifestations of chauvinism, Russophobia, anti-Semitism, and other national prejudices both in the past and in the present.

In developing the organizational structure and regulations of the KPL it is necessary:

—to refrain from ideological unification of the party, allowing people with different world views and religious convictions to operate within the party if they recognize the party political platform;

—to refrain from the formation of local party organizations according to the production principle alone, allowing the possibility for each party member freely to choose the local party organization in which he will work. The party cannot be permitted to intervene in the organization and leadership of production; party organizations cannot be included in the management structure of enterprises and organizations; and local organizations cannot be created in the Army, the KGB, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, or in law enforcement agencies;

—to reject the principle of democratic centralism, replacing it with general democratic principles that provide for real pluralism of opinions in the party, guarantees of minority rights, a diversity of platforms, and freedom of factions;

—to reject a multistage system of elections to the party, and to introduce direct elections of delegates to local forums at all levels and to party organs with secret voting of all party members;

—to provide full information for all KPL members concerning the processes of party life.

The Communist Party of Latvia should be an independent party. We are in favor of cooperation with all democratic parties, the People's Front of Latvia, and other democratic movements to achieve the goals of an independent Latvia. We are in favor of cooperating with the CPSU and other communist parties on a party basis in the interests of radical restructuring. It is not permissible to have any organizational subordination to any other party (including the CPSU).

Conference on Latvian Unity Discussed

90UN1135C Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 13 Feb 90 p 2

[Report on interview with Igor Pimenov, scientific associate of the Latvian SSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Electronics, by B. Sebyakin, LATINFORM correspondent: "Building a New Latvia—Together"]

[Text] For two days, on 10 and 11 February, a conference was held in the Large Hall of the republic Academy of Sciences on: "Problems concerning the participation by people of various nationalities in the overall democratic movement in Latvia." In the opinion of the group of initiators who organized it, it is possible to single out several stages in this process. The first one—the national awakening and social activation of a considerable share of Latvian society, based on the growth of national self-awareness—is a part of the past. Then came the period of differentiation of national interests. The next stage of democratization will be recognition of the common basic values of all Latvian residents and also of the common dangers, and the formation on this basis of Latvian regional unification and patriotism. During the course of the final stage there should be a strengthening of this unification in the self-regulating economic mechanism, property relations, and the structures of political power and civil society in Latvia.

But, as was emphasized at the congress, the transition from the initial stages of democratization to the subsequent ones is not simple. It requires that everyone abandon old and new illusions and put forth new value reference points and political concepts. To find our place in this process—this is the appeal from participants in the conference to people of all nationalities.

What goals were pursued by the organizers of the conference? Not long before it ended I asked this question of one of the initiators of this forum, Igor Pimenov, a scientific associate of the Institute of Electronics and Computer Equipment of the Latvia SSR Academy of Sciences. This is what he told me:

[Pimenov] Let me stipulate at the outset: We did not count on being able during the conference to elucidate all problems with which the people of Latvian society are living today. But to some degree we would like to bring together those people who are not indifferent to these problems in order to solve them. Possibly people who have participated actively in the work of the conference will become the nucleus for a new political organization or party of centrist orientation. I do not see myself personally in such a party because I am counting on the idea that I will be able to deal with these same problems within the currently existing Communist Party of Latvia and the CPSU, and no less effectively.

[Sebyakin] Even if there is a split in the Communist Party of Latvia?

[Pimenov] As a rank-and-file communist I shall do everything possible to prevent such a split. But that is already the subject of another discussion. The main thing now is that the republic's political forces are very polarized. And if these extreme flanks are raised, the center will hang down in the middle. Therefore we should welcome any political movement that is capable of filling the vacuum. Here we must be oriented toward democratic principles, the enlistment of all political forces to solve the problems of our society, and the creation of a civil rule-of-law state and the kind of political system that will combine extensive participation of the people in the local organs of power and in the highest legislative organ, regardless of what they might be called.

[Sebyakin] What are your impressions of the course of the conference itself?

[Pimenov] As a rule, constructive, businesslike speeches were prepared by people on whom the informals look down condescendingly—professors, lecturers, and all those who are burdened with degrees and stereotypes. Unfortunately, those who represent the informal organizations here have frequently been guilty of dilettantism, superficiality, and claims to global elucidation of events. And in general they lose the confidence of the audience because of this. We have not managed to avoid what we warned against in our address on the eve of the conference: We asked that in their speeches they try to avoid attacks on representatives of other social organizations. In my view, the attacks on the Communist Party were very unconstructive. If to some extent they can be explained now by the fact that the basis of the new organization is being hammered out, in the future we must categorically reject unadulterated criticism. The slogan "Soviets without communists" is absolutely unacceptable for a democratic movement, just as, for example, the slogan "Down with the NFL [National Front of Latvia]" is unacceptable. Each person and each political movement that contributes to the well-being of the republic, our Latvia, should find a place in the political spectrum of our society.

The conference did not end with the formation of a new political party. Its result was the creation of the "Civil Accord" organization, the nucleus of which was the group of initiators. The "Civil Accord" should unite within its ranks members of the most varied parties and social movements. Soon a summary document of the conference will be developed and it is planned to present it for broad discussion by the public.

Latvian Farmers Group Political Status Viewed

90UN1135B Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 17 Feb 90 p 3

[Report on interview with Oskar Grigs, president of the Latvian Farmers Association, by N. Ivanova: "Is a Peasant Political Party Needed Today?"]

[Text] **The Association of Latvian Farmers or new farmers was formed recently within the framework of the Union of Agricultural Workers. Since, frankly, the association was formed spontaneously, it does not yet have a specially developed program, regulations, or even a status. All this will be decided by the congress at which the farmers will gather at the end of February and beginning of March. But even today there are voices that say that the new organization must necessarily get out from under the "wing" of the Union of Latvian Agricultural Workers (SSL), forming an independent society and giving it the status of a political party of free peasants. But what does the association's president, Oskar Grigs, think of this?**

[Grigs] I think I understand where this attitude about leaving the Union of Agricultural Workers came from. Unfortunately, the SSL also includes chairmen of collective farms [kolkhozes] and leaders of state farms [sovkhozes] and there are sorry excuses for specialists who are members of our union who are against the farmers' movement.

[Ivanova] But there are probably not very many of these kinds of leaders and specialists.

[Grigs] Of course. But they are to be found in practically every rayon. There are those who are investing a good deal of money in the peasant movement. And I think that certain of my colleagues are very much mistaken when they think that it is possible for us farmers to survive today without kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Where do we go in the majority of cases for technical equipment, fertilizer, and veterinary assistance. To the farms. Who helps us to sell our products? The kolkhoz and sovkhoz. Who helps us in construction? Again the farms. And therefore it seems to me that there is no reason for each of us to go our own way. We have a common cause—providing the republic's population with food. And we must do this together. All these "divorces" are simply a waste of energy. And the main thing is that we cannot yet pull our load independently, we must look at things realistically.

With regard to the political party—you know, I have counted about 13 of them in Latvia. How many more? I get the impression that some people want very much to "get on the bandwagon," create another political party, and quickly climb into the comfortable armchairs that are resting on the shoulders of the peasants.

[Ivanova] But you will agree that the situation today is such that the peasants cannot stand on the sidelines of active political life.

[Grigs] Latvia has been peasant land for centuries. And since we have undertaken to regenerate our republic and our peasantry, we also need political means to represent and defend the interests of the rural person. But I do not think we need to create any new parties. In the Union of Agricultural Workers we have an organization that is capable of uniting the peasants and today has entered the election battle. The SSL is actively promoting its candidates for the republic parliament—people who are devoted to the land with their hearts and souls, who are able to manage it, and who enjoy authority. And thus it is proving that, to put it simply, it is in harmony with the peasants. At one time the SSL proclaimed itself to be a social organization oriented toward solving purely economic and social problems. But times have changed. Our union must change to some degree as well. I think it should be given a political status. And this process is taking place.

[Ivanova] Thank you for the conversation.

Latvian Independence Commission Formed

90UN1135A Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 24 Feb 90 p 1

[Report from the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Information Sector: "Meeting of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] The Latvian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium held a meeting at which a number of crucial issues were discussed. In keeping with the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet declaration concerning state sovereignty, a commission consisting of more than 40 people was created to develop measures to restore Latvia's economic and political independence. The commission was instructed to prepare suggestions for the republic platform in negotiations with representatives of the highest state organs of authority and management of the USSR, and to bring them up for consideration at the new convocation of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet.

A commission was also established to develop a Latvian SSR draft law on the press and other mass media, to be led by A. Baumanis, chairman of the board of the Latvian SSR Union of Journalists.

Deputies of the Riga city soviet and city residents received an answer to the question that interested them concerning the results of the consideration of the written application from the chairman of the Riga city soviet of people's deputies, A. Teykmanis, and also the application of a group of deputies of this soviet. The Supreme Soviet Presidium rejected this group's suggestion to hold direct elections for chairman of the city executive committee as being unsubstantiated. In keeping with the law, the city soviet decree concerning the creation of the new commissions was declared invalid. The Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium department for legislative issues was instructed to submit a written clarification in connection with the procedure and essence of secret voting.

But many facts still need to be verified and the situation that has been created requires a comprehensive evaluation. Therefore the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium formed an authorized Supreme Soviet commission made up of deputies and legal experts, and enlisted for its work T. Dushkevich, I. Liyetaviyetis, A. Kruminsh, V. Miller, Ya. Saleniyeks, R. Senkan, and G. Zemribo. The commission should give a legal evaluation concerning electing the chairman of the city executive committee before the resumption of the work of the 15th session of the republic Supreme Soviet on 1 March of this year, and should make its proposals to the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for improving legislation to provide for observance of minorities' rights in soviets of all levels and also to assign responsibility for a deliberate boycott of the soviet's sessions and work.

The Riga deputies should decide for themselves how to proceed further without waiting for a Supreme Soviet decree.

The law on the new state symbol goes into effect on 27 February. The Supreme Soviet Presidium is announcing that the red, white, and red flag will be raised over the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet building on 27 February of this year at 1000 hours.

Reportage on Estonian Supreme Soviet Session

Draft Separation Law Proposed

LD3003120690 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The very first day of the work of the newly elected Supreme Soviet of Estonia has brought political surprises. The forecast of specialists that Estonia, in contrast to Lithuania, will take a more well thought-out and cautious way to independence, has failed to materialize.

The deputies of the People's Front of Estonia who have a slight majority in the Supreme Soviet, have suggested including a package of draft laws on the agenda, including the declaration on the status of Estonia as a state and a law on temporary government. If approved, Estonia will be separated from the system of government power of the USSR.

Ruutel Elected President

LD2903171490 Moscow TASS in English 1647 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Tallinn, March 29 TASS—Arnold Ruutel was elected president of the Estonian Supreme Soviet today at the first session of the new republican parliament, elected on March 18.

Ruutel, 61, ethnic Estonian, member of the Communist Party, agronomist by training, has held several top party and government positions in Estonia.

Until today, Ruutel held the now defunct post of president of the presidium of the Estonian Supreme Soviet.

The parliament confirmed the credentials of the deputies elected on March 18 and discussed a number of procedural issues.

At the proposal of the group of deputies from the Estonian Popular Front, the session will discuss bills on the temporary government in Estonia and on Estonian state symbols and a draft declaration on the state status of the republic.

The session will continue its work on Friday.

Nugis Elected Speaker

LD3003121290 Moscow TASS in English 1133 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tallinn March 30 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Albert Maloveryan:

Popular Front Leader Marju Lauristin, who declined nomination for president of the Estonian Supreme

Soviet, was defeated on Thursday during the elections of Supreme Soviet speaker by Julo Nugis.

Nugis is the head of the Estonian Labour Collective Union, which has only six seats in the supreme soviet. Arnold Ruytyel was elected president of the Supreme Soviet.

The Union of Labour Collectives is known in Estonia for its radicalism, especially in the economic sphere. Last November a general meeting of the union adopted a resolution, according to which it is impossible to fulfil the plan for republican cost-accounting in Estonia, if it remains within the Soviet Union.

The union also initiated a meeting of Estonian deputies last February, during which a declaration on Estonian state sovereignty was adopted.

Six deputy groups were formed on the first day of the parliamentary session. They include "agrarians", deputies of the Popular Front, "Republicans", intellectuals and fighters for equal rights.

There is also a group to oppose "the occupation of Estonia," which calls for the restoration of the old Estonian republic.

This morning's session was opened by Nugis. Deputies will have to elect his two deputies. Then the government of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic will lay down its powers.

Deputies will still have to discuss their further agenda, as on Thursday they agreed only on the first six items.

For instance, the new prime minister may be appointed right away or his appointment may be postponed. It is still unknown whether or not the Popular Front will seek revenge after its failure on Thursday and make its deputy the prime minister.

Ruutel Addresses Soviet

LD2903185990 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Excerpts] We will start with a survey of the first working day of the people's deputies who were elected to the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet. Gunnar Paal will report:

[Begin recording] [Paal] After lengthy debates on the agenda and rules for work, the first session of the new convocation of the Supreme Soviet on Toompea [in Tallinn] has elected a chairman of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet. The only candidate to stand in the elections was Arnold Ruutel. The results of voting were as follows: 84 votes in favor of Arnold Ruutel, and 18 against; 102 people's deputies took part in the voting. After the vote, Arnold Ruutel said the following:

[Ruutel] I am very pleased that at such a responsible stage in the democratization of our society you have expressed this kind of trust in me. And if with the previous convocation of the Supreme Soviet we succeeded in making a political and legal contribution to the democratization of our society, then now you and I face work so as to carry on this task. And I would very much like to hope that all the people's deputies will take an extremely responsible attitude to the fact that behind you there are the people. And if we do not yet know how to rate, with perhaps full authority, the work of the previous session, or convocation of the Supreme Soviet, then our work will be evaluated both by time and the people. [passage omitted]

[Paal] There were two candidates, Marju Lauristin and Ulo Nugis, nominated for the post of the head [as heard] of the Supreme Soviet. [passage ommited] Eventually the matter was put to secret ballot and precisely at the beginning of this program, the results of voting at Toompea were also announced. [passage omitted] Thus it will be Ulo Nugis who will take up the post of head of the Supreme Soviet.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet today suggested a 14-point agenda. A heated debate arose over this. Enn Poldroos made a string of proposals which substantially added to the draft agenda. [passage indistinct] Those were: declaration of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet on Estonia's status as a state and on Estonian symbols; declaration on cooperation of the Estonian Supreme Soviet with both the Estonian congress and the Estonian committee; an address to the Supreme (?Soviet) of the Lithuanian Republic; temporary procedure for governing Estonia; and an address of the Estonian Supreme Soviet to the president of the Soviet Union. Later also proposals were added in defense of the rights of minority deputies within the parliament and in respect of republican self-management problems. These issues were also voted onto the agenda. In which order they will be discussed will be decided later. [passage omitted] [end recording]

More on Supreme Soviet

LD2903121490 Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT 29 Mar 90

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Excerpts] Tallinn March 29 TASS—The newly-elected Estonian Supreme Soviet began its first session here today to confirm deputies' powers, adopt new rules and discuss organisational issues.

Last week a number of Estonian Communist split from the party at its 20th congress, forming an independent Estonian Communist Party. Leaders from both parties are now claiming that they are the true inheritors to their parent organisation. [passage omitted]

Veideman, a member of the board of the Estonian Popular Front, said that the new Supreme Soviet should adopt the "Declaration of Independence" today.

Paramilitary self-defence units are being formed acaross Estonia to protect the borders of the future republic. By August 1, these units will unite 10,000 people, he said.

Estonian Party Split, Supreme Soviet Discussed

PM2903172690 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 1

["Topics of the Day" feature comprising two dispatches from own correspondent L. Levitskiy in Tallinn: "Estonia Seeks Its Way"]

[Text] Tallinn—The split in the Estonian Communist Party is a reality. Things always tear where the fabric is thinnest. The "thin patch" in the former Estonian Communist Party (to avoid future confusion over terminology, let us agree: The Estonian Communist Party through 25 March is simply the Estonian Communist Party; from 26 March, there is the autonomous Estonian Communist Party and the Estonian Communist Party within the CPSU) was the fact that 51 percent of its members are Estonians and 49 percent non-Estonians.

It is also a reality that Estonians and non-Estonians have different understandings of the future of Estonia, political and economic relations within it, and the role of the Communist Party. And therefore it is not a good idea to reduce everything to simple differences in people's political convictions, or else you would have to agree that the Estonian population are all democrats and humanists, while the nonindigenous population are conservatives. Attempts to present everything in these terms were the initial causes of the growing tension in the republic. It must be acknowledged that there are two communities in the republic whose interests do not coincide on the fundamental problem.

Perestroyka in Estonia has taken on the character of a national democratic movement. A movement for the full restoration of the state, its borders, and the state system on the 1918-1940 model. Populist politicians skillfully whipped up people's feelings with fine-sounding slogans. A congress of citizens took place, which elected the Estonia Committee and declared itself the highest repository of statehood. The Estonian Supreme Soviet, its Presidium, and the government should now operate within the framework of decisions of the congress and the Estonia Committee. The question is: Will the government, and still more the Supreme Soviet, agree to this? But there are many communists among those who have registered as citizens of Estonia and the delegates to the congress and the committee. They assert this principle: Estonia's future can only be decided by people who had Estonian citizenship prior to summer 1940. Some 94 percent of those people are Estonians.

Recently the republic's party organizations have increasingly become a venue for debates and the adoption of decisions that, although they are compromises, tend to stabilize society. This practical role on the part of the CPSU did not suit everyone. Hence the energetically imposed image of the Estonian Communist Party as the "hand of Moscow." Hence, too, the insistent demands for autonomy for the Estonian Communist Party.

For those who came to Estonia since the war, the preservation of the unity of the country and of the CPSU is the sole guarantee of social protection. There are grounds for misgivings. These lie in the one-sidedness of the legislative acts adopted recently, in the citizens' committees, and in the idealization of the statehood and social system of 1918-1940, although not everything in those days conformed to democratic norms...

It was the divergence of interests that led to the formation of two factions within the Estonian Communist Party.

...In Estonia today there are two Communist Parties with their own Central Committees. Some of the delegates from the party organizations of plants and the cities of Narva and Sillamae have remained within the autonomous Communist Party as a faction disagreeing with secession from the CPSU before the 28th congress and secession from the USSR without a referendum. They will remain until such time as the communists themselves have chosen which party to belong to.

E. Sillari, first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee, assessed the work of the 20th congress as successful, and stressed: The autonomous Estonian Communist Party has nothing in common with the Lithuanian version. A transitional period has been declared in the party, until the 28th CPSU Congress.

The party organizations of several large plants in Tallinn and enterprises in Kohtla-Jarve approved the actions of their delegates at the 20th Estonian Communist Party Congress and the formation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party within the CPSU.

Dividing lines are being drawn. But for the time being the members of the different parties carry in their pockets the same style of party card.

[Second dispatch begins] The republic Supreme Soviet deputies elected on 18 March gathered in the ancient Kadriorga Palace yesterday. On the Supreme Soviet Presidium, they were solemnly handed their credentials, which on this occasion were very hard-won...

There are 105 parliamentarians. That is only just over one-third of the size of the past Supreme Soviet convocations. The smaller number will, it is hoped, result in a higher quality of legislative activity. What is the initial distribution of forces in parliament? The People's Front coalition has 42 representatives, the Estonian Union of Labor Collectives—12, the United Council of Labor Collectives—27, the "Free Estonia" association—12. The remaining seats are distributed among agricultural associations, "greens," and independents. None of the social movements has a majority that would guarantee the adoption of its favored decision. The mood will be set by three factions: the People's Front, the center—that is, "Free Estonia" and the Union of Labor Collectives, and the United Council of Labor Collectives. The political watershed in parliament is the question of Estonia's state autonomy.

As the first press conference by deputies of these movements showed, not everyone considers it necessary for the republic to secede from the USSR. How should independence be approached? Should the Lithuanian version be chosen, or should progress be more circumspect? Opinions differ.

V. Lebedev, representative of the parliamentary faction of the United Council of Labor Collectives, said:

"The path to independence for Estonia lies only through a referendum, in which all the population should participate. Moreover, the opinion of the inhabitants of the northeastern part of the republic should be taken into account separately."

Yu. Nugis, chairman of the Estonian Union of Labor Collectives, objected:

"The parliamentary majority will never agree to a referendum. When Moscow recognizes Estonia's right to lawful power, we will elect a state Duma. It will adopt a decision on state independence."

According to Yu. Nugis, he supports the "zero" option for citizenship, that is, the possibility of obtaining citizenship should be granted to everyone living in the republic. But it has not yet been decided whether people who are applying for citizenship will be able to participate in the election of the state Duma. This is basically a reaffirmation of the position of the National Independence Party and the citizens' committees. They insist that Estonia's future can be decided only by those who were living in Estonia prior to 1940 and their descendants.

The press conference was only an opportunity to "find the range" for the future battles in parliament. The solemn moment when the Supreme Soviet deputies received their credentials was not complicated by polemics. The polemics will begin at noon, local time, on 29 March, in another palace—on Toompea. The first session of the new Supreme Soviet opens there...

Independent Estonian Communist Party Holds Plenum

LD2903161290 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Tallinn March 29 TASS—At its third plenary meeting here today, the Central Commitee of the Independent Estonian Communist Party elected V. Malkovskiy, former first secretary of the Narva city party committee, as secretary of the party Central Committee.

The Central Committee discussed issues connected with the status of the transitional period of the Estonian Communist Party, proclaimed at its 20th congress. Specifically, the committee discussed the procedure for registering members of the Independent Communist Party at primary party organizations and district party comnmittees.

A commission, comprising Central Committee members, has been formed to coordinate this work.

This status has been approved, but the plenum agreed that changes could be made until April 4, as decided by the congress.

Independent Communist Party Said Losing Power

LD2903120790 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 0900 GMT 29 Mar90

[Excerpts] And now from Estonia where communists are striving to find unity, and not only in the party. Today a step was perhaps taken in that direction. Juri Hansen reports.

[Hansen] This morning the Third Plenum of the Independent Communist Party of Estonia Central Committee took place. The number of Central Committee members is quite modest, compared with the previous one. The plenum is for that reason no longer held in the big hall, and even in the small movie hall there was plenty of room, a clear external sign that the party which has been implementing sole power is changing over to an ordinary party.

Last night a joint plenum of party committees of the three big Ida-Virumaa [previously Kohtla-Jarve rayon] towns—Narva, Sillamae, and Kohtla-Jarve—took place in Kohtla-Jarve, which gave a mandate of trust on its part to the Central Committee members who were elected from those towns at the 20th congress. Thus the party organizations of Narva, Sillamae, and Kohtla-Jarve have had their say. They are keeping in line with the Independent Communist Party of Estonia and are not joining the Night Party [Oopartei]. With respect to the future of the Independent Communist Party of Estonia and the future of Estonia, this carries altogether a lot of importance. The joint plenum also gave a mandate of trust to Vladimir Malkovskiy for him to be elected secretary of the Communist Party of Estonia Central Committee. Voting did not take long. There were no other candidates nominated. The hitherto first secretary of Narva town committee, Vladimir Malkovskiy, was unanimously voted to be secretary of the Communist Party of Estonia Central Committee. The Independent Communist Party of Estonia Central Comittee now has three secretaries: Enn-Arno Sillari, Harri Roots, and Vladimir Malkovskiy.

I asked the new secretary what, in his opinion, are the most essential problems that are awaiting to be resolved:

[Begin Malkovskiy recording in Russian fading to Estonian translation] The most important problems are connected with the transition period. It is necessary that the transition time set down passes fairly calmly and normally, so that it will indeed be an expression of the free will of the people. In my opinion, those are complex problems. Today, these processes have just found their beginning and I think they will create numerous questions. We must solve them calmly, keeping the interests of everybody in mind. [end recording] [passage ommtited]

[Hansen] One could guess that once the Independent Communist Party of Estonia becomes a full-blooded party, the easing of tensions which have formed in nationality relations and the elaboration of the so-called Russian policy will become its most important task. Up until now this has been barely mentioned. The Independent Communist Party of Estonia will have an opportunity to solve this problem if it does not begin to suffer from low membership.

RSFSR

Moscow Soviet Deputies Agree To Form Factions

PM2803151190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 90 p 2

[Report from the Moscow City Soviet by IZVESTIYA correspondent Aleksandr Davydov: "Factions Forming in the City Soviet"]

[Text] There has been an assembly of deputies elected to the Moscow City Soviet.

The main item on the agenda was preparation for the first session of the new Moscow City Soviet. At the beginning of the sitting, Moscow City Soviet Deputy S.B. Stankevich announced the setting up of a "Democratic Russia" bloc of deputies. The 288 deputies (more than 60 percent of the registered membership of the Moscow City Soviet) in the bloc have pledged to vote on a limited number of specific questions in accordance with the decision of the deputies group's general assembly.

Having heard the announcement, the deputies started work. The assembly presidium proposed by the Moscow City Soviet Executive Committee apparatus was rejected. After a brief debate Deputies Yu.A. Vinogradov, N.N. Gonchar, G.Kh. Popov, V.T. Saykin, S.B. Stankevich, and V.S. Afanasyev were elected to the presidium.

Then a rather tumultuous discussion began on what principle to follow when forming the organizational committee to prepare for the session. Attitudes were clearly expressed. Apparatus representatives insisted on the traditional, territorial principle of representation. "Democratic Russia's" viewpoint—nominating deputies for the organizing committee in accordance with their political stance—came out on top in the voting (249 for, 106 against). Each bloc will independently name its own representative in a ratio of one for each 10 deputies. Thus, there are 28 "Democratic Russia" deputies among the 46 members of the organizing committee.

Deputy Yu.A. Prokofyev, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU City Committee [Gorkom], asked the communists to remain in the hall during the break and made an appeal—that the deputies who did not share the Moscow CPSU Gorkom election platform provisions must decide whether they were going to remain members of the party. Reactions varied. Acknowledging the communists' mood, Deputy Yu.A. Prokofyev did not push his proposal.

After the break it was suggested that the sitting should adjourn for a few days to enable the deputies not in the "Democratic Russia" bloc to form their own factions in the city soviet and then, in accordance with the established quota, fill the vacant places in the organizing committee. The proposal was adopted by a majority of votes.

RSFSR Council of Ministers Holds Meeting

PM2903104590 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Mar 90 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the RSFSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] At a 26 March sittingm the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers has discussed the draft concept of the RSFSR's economic independence. It was noted that the concept for the RSFSR's transition to new conditions of economic management is being elaborated in accordance with the instructions of the second Congress of USSR People's Deputies and considers the opinion of broad strata of the public.

The session stressed that the RSFSR has a powerful natural, economic, scientific and technical, demographic, and intellectual potential. The majority of the country's fuel and energy and mineral and raw material, timber, land, and water resources is concentrated on its territory. Russia accounts for nearly two-thirds of the USSR's national product. A considerable proportion of the Russian potential, far greater than that of the other union republics, is used to resolve social tasks. At the same time the existing structure of the RSFSR national economy under the conditions of the existing system of price formation does not ensure equivalent exchange with other union republics and does not compensate for the real expenditure on the development of sectors important for the solution of all-union tasks. This is leading to an increased proportion of the accumulation fund in the national income and to a narrowing of opportunities for resolving social problems.

As a result of this the RSFSR national economy is geared only extremely feebly toward the satisfaction of the needs of the republic's population. The RSFSR ranks last among the union republics in terms of the proportion of expenditure on social needs in the national income and eighth in terms of housing provision.

The concept of the RSFSR's economic independence, work on which will continue, will make it possible to resolve the socially important questions of the republic's development and will promote the consolidation of all the union republics in the country's single national economic complex.

The sitting also examined other questions of the republic's economic and sociocultural life.

RSFSR 'Peoples of North' Hold 1st Congress

Gorbachev Sends Message

LD2903170090 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Mikhail Sergyevich Gorbachev has sent a message of greetings to the Congress of the Peoples of the North which is opening in Moscow tomorrow.

The message states: Esteemed comrades, I warmly welcome you, representatives of the indigenous peoples of the north, who have gathered for your congress within the walls of the Moscow Kremlin. I believe that this forum is an event of great importance both for northerners and for our multinational homeland as a whole. Your congress is convincing evidence that the tremendous work for renewing Soviet society is now being carried out by all the peoples of the USSR. The idea of perestroyka has found a home in the hearts of thousands and thousands of fellow countrymen working for the good of the country in the harsh conditions of the north.

The civic activeness of northerners is growing, and their contribution to the tackling of statewide tasks is growing. The desire of the indigenous peoples of the north to be genuinely in charge of their own land and their own future is legitimate. Our multinational community is becoming increasingly aware that the ability to live in harmonious unity with nature and the ability developed over centuries to protect its wealth are values common to all humanity, and their significance is constantly growing in the world today. I am sure that your congress will serve the development and strengthening of national characteristics and the revival of cultural traditions, and will help to preserve the environment of the indigenous people's of the north, and to improve their living and working conditions.

I hope that your work is fruitful and that the activity of the Association of Peoples of the North, which is being set up, is successful, Mikhail Gorbachev's message states in conclusion.

Gorbachev, Others Take Part

LD3003101790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 30 Mar 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The First Congress of the Small Peoples of the North has started in the Kremlin. The delegates who have assembled in the Great Kremlin Palace represent 26 ethnic minorities living in the northern areas stretching from Murmansk Oblast to Chukotka and Kamchatka. Taking part in the work of the congress are Comrades Gorbachev, Vorotnikov, Maslyukov, Medvedev, Ryzhkov, Vlasov, Lukyanov, Baklanov, Girenko, Manayenkov, and Usmanov.

The delegates approved the agenda and the procedural rules of the congress. Comrade Vorotnikov, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, welcomed the participants in the congress. Then Taksami, chairman of the congress organizing committee and doctor of historical sciences, made a report on the first issue on the agenda and on the political and socioeconomic situation of and prospects for the development of the small peoples of the North.

Comrade Khomyakov, deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic's planning committee, gave a report on the comprehensive program for further development of the economy and culture of the small peoples of the North for 1990-95 and for the period up to 2005.

At the congress an all-Russian association will be established. Its program and rules will be adopted and its council will be elected. The congress continues its work. [video shows scenes at congress with Gorbachev, Ryzhkov, and others]

Vorotnikov, Taksami Address Congress

LD3003103390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0855 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Vitaliy Vorotnikov, chairman of the Presidium of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, referred to the congress of the peoples of the north, which has opened in the Kremlin, as an event of great importance to northerners and to the whole multinational country. Greeting the participants in the congress, he emphasized that each nation, each people, irrespective of its size, is today taking part in the creative transformations in the life of Soviet society.

Presenting his report, the historian Chuner Taksami, chairman of the congress' organization committee, noted that the small peoples had made considerable progress during the seven decades of Soviet rule. They had their own teachers, doctors, and specialists in many fields of science and technology.

At the same time, during the last decades, the northern peoples have encountered great difficulties connected with the unsystematic exploitation of the north's rich natural resources. As a result, the opportunities for the northerners' traditional pursuits—hunting, fishing, and reindeer breeding—has diminished. The living environment of all the small peoples without exception has been disrupted. Following a great population influx from the other regions, they are in the minority in their own primordial territories.

Chuner Taksami presented a proposal that a package of draft laws providng for the formation of new autonomous okrugs, national rayons, and local soviets should be considered by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. In rayons with a mixed population, it is, he said, essential to form permament operating commissions on interethnic relations with the power to veto decisions that run counter to the interests of small peoples.

Quite a few problems exist in the fields of culture and education. Taksami proposed that a university or institute of the peoples of the north should be created. This multidisciplinary educational establishment should train specialists for the whole of the northern region.

Penza Oblast Elects New Party Chief

LD2903192290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A plenum of the oblast party committee took place in Penza today. It examined an organizational matter.

The plenum relieved Comrade Kulikov of the duty of first secretary of the Penza oblast committee of the CPSU in connection with his retirement on pension. Out of three candidates, Comrade Zubkov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet deputy, was elected to this post by a majority of votes.

Western Republics

Hunger Strike, Protests Continue in Moldavia

PM2903130790 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Mar 90 First Edition p 4

[Colonel N. Mulyar report: "Moldavia: Situation Normalizing"]

[Text] Kishinev, 28 Mar—After the unsanctioned processions and picketing of government buildings, the situation in Kishinev is returning to normal. This has been promoted, in particular, by the Moldavian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium's adoption of a resolution "On the Deterioration in the Sociopolitical Situation in the Republic." It not only condemns the illegal actions of destructive forces, but also issues a strict warning to those who violate public order and refuse to submit to existing laws. The Moldavian Council of Ministers has been instructed to take immediate measures to ensure the observance of socialist legality, law, and order.

But despite the measures being taken, the hunger strike by more than a dozen people beside the Stephen the Great Monument in downtown Kishinev continues. A tricolor flag is flying there alongside various banners. These are changed often.

On the night of 24-25 March in Pushkin Park persons unknown daubed paint over the monument to the great poet, who once sang of the land of Moldavia.

The Moldavian People's Front held a large rally Sunday. It was devoted to the anniversary of the "Svatul Tseriy" decision, which prescribed the reunification of Moldavia and Romania in 1918. USSR People's Deputy I. Khadyrke, chairman of the Moldavian People's Front, who spoke at the rally, stated that he was leaving the CPSU.

Under these circumstances the republic's Communist Party Central Committee has launched work at enterprises and organizations to consolidate labor collectives. The prevailing situation is being explained to people. The situation in the city is gradually getting back to normal.

Hoisting of Nationalist Flag in Stryy 'Unlawful'

LD2903194990 Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Kiev March 29 TASS—By TASS correspondent Stanislav Volnyanskiy:

The prosecutor of the western Ukraine's Lvov region today decreed unlawful the regional authorities' decision to replace the state flag above their headquarters with a Ukrainian nationalist banner.

Stryy Mayor Igor Matiytsev told a rally on Wednesday that the decision to hoist the yellow-blue flag was taken by the city council with the participation of twenty-two newly elected deputies.

Many informal movements have been using the yellow-blue flag as a Ukrainian symbol. The flag was part of the official regalia of the Central Rada, the Ukrainian government on German-occupied territory, for a brief period in 1918.

Armed units of Simon Petlyura fought under the flag against Soviet Government during the civil war.

In an interview with TASS, Vladimir Sinyukov, first deputy prosecutor of the Ukraine, said that the actions by the Stryy city council and the newly elected deputies involved were "clearly unlawful" because they grossly violated the Ukrainian Constitution and other legislative acts.

Sinyukov stressed that the "use of flags and pennants, which are not registered officially, is not permitted" by the republican Constitution and other legislative acts.

The hoisting of yellow-blue flags on buildings "should be curbed by law-enforcement bodies", Sinyukov said.

Ukrainian Deputies Urge Recognition of Lithuania

LD3003113090 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0700 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Report from Sajudis Information Agency]

[Text] On 27 March, a meeting of the Lvov club of deputies adopted an appeal to the deputies of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet which states:

We, people's deputies of the Soviet Union and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, understanding the importance of our decision, ask you at the first session of the newly elected Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to adopt a resolution on the recognition of the independent Lithuanian Republic in accordance with all the international norms and rules, a resolution which states that Ukraine has no territorial, financial, or material claims toward the Republic of Lithuania, an appeal of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to other Supreme Soviets of the union republics proposing that they adopt similar documents.

This document was signed by the Soviet Union's People's Deputies (Rochislav Bratunis), Ivan Makarchyuk, and 24 Ukrainian people's deputies.

Ukraine Communist Party Ponders Rukh Letter

LD2803203690 Kiev in Ukrainian to Europe 1700 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The matter of communists who signed a letter to members of Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] and to all citizens of Ukraine was examined today at the party control commission of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. As we have already reported, it was published in the LITERATURNA UKRAINA weekly, which was published 8 March. My colleague Dmytro Ponomarchuk comments:

[Ponomarchuk] I will recall that in that letter, leading Rukh figures called for the creation of a new political party based on Rukh. Among those who came out with this initiative were several communists. [passage omitted] Here is what Serhiy Holovatyy, deputy head of the council of the Rukh collegium, people's deputy of Ukraine, one of those who signed the aforementioned letter, says:

[Begin Holovatyy recording] The overall majority of those involved in the discussion took the view that Rukh should remain a sociopolitical movement and that it should not be turned into a party. [passage omitted on Rukh's preference for a multiparty system as theonly way to a democratic system for the state]. [end recording]

[Ponomarchuk] I will note that activists of the Ukrainian Helsinki Association [UNA] spoke out categorically against turning Rukh into a party, while Vyacheslav Chornovil, a most prominent figure in the UHA, stated that people's deputies of Ukraine, of which he is one, should be independent—and that means not party members. He also announced that he was leaving that association. He probably made such a decision because the UHA had announced it was to be organized into a political party.

At the same time, Ivan Drach, Dmytro Pavlychko, Volodymyr Yavorivskyy, and Serhiy Holovatyy, as well as other leading figures in Rukh, do not reject the idea of creating a new political party which, in the words of Ivan Drach, might have the name of either Independent People's Party or Democratic Party for the Rebirth of Ukraine. The initiators of its creation set themselves the aim of making such a party a leading force in Rukh. Well, as they say, we will wait and see.

Multiparty Parliament Anticipated in Ukraine

90UN1186A Moscow SOYUZ in Russian No 10, 5-11 Mar 90 p 3

[Nikolay Baklanov report: "A Multiparty System? Yes, It Is Possible"]

[Text] Official results from the elections to the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet and local soviets will be available after this issue of SOYUZ has been printed, but it is already absolutely clear that an expected and extremely important event has taken place in the republic, namely, for the first time a multiparty parliament will be convened.

So, for whom did the electors vote on 4 March? For whose plans and programs to deal with the many crisis phenomena in society and raise the living standard in the Ukraine did they support? Preliminary analysis of the figures returned indicates that representatives of the Ukrainian Communist Party still have a real chance to retain a majority in the republic Supreme Soviet. Moreover, a public opinion poll gives grounds for suggesting that one the eve of the elections the authority of the republic party organization increased noticeably. This was undoubtedly helped largely by the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee February Plenum, which proposed that urgent steps be taken to devise reliable guarantees for the republic's sovereignty and to safeguard the interests of the Ukrainian SSR and the population living on its territory. The program for action proposed by the plenum was supported by a significant proportion of citizens, and this is confirmed by the fact that a number of Ukrainian Communist Party leaders, as, for example, Central Committee secretaries S. Gurenko, B. Kachura and L. Kravchuk, and the chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers V. Masol won in the first round of the elections. With respect to CPSU Central Committee Politburo Member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee First Secretary V. Ivashko, who was running in one of the more complicated electoral okrugs in Kiev, where a large number of candidates were registered, he was one of the two winners who gained the largest numbers of votes, and he must run again in the second round of the elections.

The People's Movement of the Ukraine for Perestroyka—"Rukh"—also achieved palpable success in the elections. Although officially this movement does not call itself a party, I think that today it is clear to many people that it does represent a considerable political force capable of fighting for power in the republic at all levels. As had been expected, the "Rukh" candidates got most of their support in the western oblasts of the Ukraine. In the "Rukh" secretariat they also told me that their representatives had gained many votes in Donetsk, Kharkov, and Kiev, and are continuing the struggle in the second round of voting. As far as many "Rukh" leaders are concerned—first and foremost the NDU chairman, the poet I. Drach—they also won in their very first "round" of the voting.

To judge from everything, another real force that will undoubtedly exert influence on the work of the new republic parliament is the "Green World" association. Representatives of the "Greens" party also gained major support among voters.

3 Ukrainian Pro-Separatists Expelled From CPSU

LD2903170990 Moscow TASS International Service in ussian 1535 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Kiev, 29 Mar (RATAU-TASS)—On the instructions of the secretariat of the Ukraine Communist Party [CP] Central Committee, the party control commission attached to the Central Committee of the Ukrainian CP has considered the case of individual members of the CPSU who were behind the idea of setting up a new political party as an alternative to the CPSU, on the basis of the program and rules of the Ukrainian People's Movement for Restructuring (RUKH).

In an appeal published in the form of a letter in the 'LITERATURNA UKRAINA' newspaper on 8 March, they levelled unfounded accusations at the CPSU and they persisted with them at a session of the party control commission.

For separatist aspirations, slander against the CPSU, and actions designed to create a new political party as an alternative to it—something that is incompatible with membership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union—the party control commission attached to the Central Committee of the Ukrainian CP expelled from the CPSU V. Donchik, leading research officer at the Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences; S. Golovatyy, senior research officer at the Institute of the Social and Economic Problems of Foreign Countries of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences; and A. Burakovskiy, senior research officer at the Kiev branch of the Central Research Institute of Communications.

New Ukraine Trade Union Leader Elected

LD2903174490 Kiev in English to Europe 1800 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Today a plenum of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic Council of Trade Unions has ended its work in Ukraine's capital. It determined the position of the republic's trade unions at the current moment and its attitude toward the realization of social programs, employment, protection of workers' interests. Anatoliy Kovalevskiy has been elected new chairman of the Council of Trade Unions of the Ukraine on an alternative basis.

Commission Prepares for Mukachevo Radar Stations

LD2803180490 Kiev in Ukrainian to Europe 1700 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpts] A state commission of the Soviet Union headed by Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, director of the Atomic Energy Institute named after Kurchatov, has begun work in Mukachevo, in Transcarpathia. The task of the commission is to conduct a qualified ecological examination of the project to build a radar station in the village of (?Pistryalovo), near Mukachevo. [passage omitted on protests that halted construction and decision of the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet on ecological situation in the republic] We will report on the results of the work of the commission in our future bulletins.

Chernobyl Cleanup Workers Ask Better Health Care

PM2903091790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent Anatoliy Kleva: "Chernobyl People Protest"]

[Text] Ninety people who participated in the cleanup after the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station are protesting against the government's tardiness in tackling vitally important questions concerning the fate of those who battled selflessly in the hellish conditions of the reactor.

For a long time the emergency workers had been drawing attention to their extremely serious plight, warning that they would go on hunger strike. In one of its evening programs two weeks ago, Central Television reported that the workers were prepared to take a desperate step. The leaders of the USSR and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Health Ministries and USSR Supreme Soviet deputies ignored the warnings. The other day patients at the Scientific Research Institute of Medical Radiology sent the USSR Supreme Soviet session and USSR president a telegram announcing that they would not stop their hunger strike until a government commission came to Kharkov.

"Around 65,000 people from our oblast worked in the accident zone," V. Minak, deputy chief of the oblast health department, who was an active participant in the cleanup operation, announced. "One in six has been placed on the all-Union register. Only 72 have been declared invalids. Thirty-six died last year, including 12 from cancer..."

In conversation with me, the participants in the cleanup operation made their demands: The country's doctors must be given the Health Ministry's authorization to relate diagnoses to work in the high-radiation zone. Hitherto only the Kiev All-Union Scientific Center of Radiation Medicine has had this right. It has meant that hundreds of sufferers have not had any help. Trade unions must without delay issue the Chernobyl people documents confirming an accident at work. The republic's Health Ministry and the USSR Red Cross must ensure improved treatment and aftercare.

Caucasus

Reportage on Azerbaijan, Armenia Border Conflicts

Tension Reportedly Increasing

NC3003101990 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 30 Mar 90

[From the republican press review]

[Text] The newspapers reported today that tension is gradually increasing in the Nakichevan Autonomous Soviet Socialist's Republic's rayons bordering the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR]. Armenian extremists launched new armed attacks on the towns in Shakhbuzskiy, Babekskiy, and Ilichevskiy Rayons. The Armenian bandits fired on the Shada, Yukari Yaydzhi, Teberek, Ashagy Buzgov, Yukari Buzgov, and Kermechatakh towns with machineguns and handguns. Three Teberek residents were wounded.

In Kermechatakh town in Babekskiy Rayon, the Armenian bandits killed Veli Zeynalov, chief of the Nakhichevan Oblast Party Committee State Legal Affairs Department.

All the people, together with the militia and the committee for state security workers, have risen to protect the peaceful people and our towns from the criminals.

A report from Kazakhskiy Rayon says that the situation continues to cause fear in the rayon, after Armenian bandits took three residents of Chayli Town hostage on 24 March, their fate is still unknown.

As reported earlier, the Armenian bandits fired on the Alibeyli town in Tauzskiy Rayon on the night of 27-28 March. Four people were wounded. The Azerbaijan SSR law enforcement organs determined the locations where armed Armenians gather in Armenian's Shamshadinskiy Rayon's forested areas along Azerbaijan SSR's Tauzskiy Rayon. With the help of the Soviet Army units, they carried out a military operation. Eleven armed Armenian bandits were captured. One revolver, four small-caliber rifles, four shotguns, 13 explosives, two radios, and a large quantity of cartridges were seized from them.

(?Majnunyan), director of [name indistinct] factory in [name indistinct] town in the Armenian SSR, is among the captured Armenians.

The talks which began with the Armenian side on 28 March have not yielded any concrete results so far.

Border Situation Updated

PM2903202290 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 90 p 1

[Feature comprising report by our correspondent V. Aloyan from Yerevan, F. Ismaylov report from Baku, and Ye. Zhirnov report on press conference by Chief Military Prosecutor A. Katusev: "Transcaucasus, 29 March"]

[Text] **Yerevan**

The situation in the border regions of the two republics is extremely heated. People have been killed and injured. Instances of the seizure of weapons have become more frequent.

A particularly grave situation has developed on the border between Araratskiy Rayon in Armenia and Ilichevskiy Rayon in Nakhichevan ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic]. From noon until evening on 28 March, a firefight was in progress here, using mortars, cannon, salute guns, and automatic weapons.

According to Armenian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] information, at 1600 hours on 29 March firing had ceased on the border between the two republics, but the situation is still extremely tense. [Aloyan ends]

Baku

The border seems to have become the firing line. Villages in Shakhbuzskiy, Babekskiy, and Ilichevskiy Rayons in Nakhichevan ASSR have come under fire. The day before yesterday the village of Shada in Shakhbuzskiy Rayon came under attack from artillery, machine guns, and submachine guns.

An emergency joint session of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Council of Ministers yesterday examined the question of the situation that has arisen in Nakhichevan ASSR and Kazakhskiy, Kedabekskiy, Kelbadzharskiy, and other rayons of the republic and the measures necessary to stabilize the situation. The session took note of a report from Yu.V. Shatalin, chief of the USSR MVD Main Administration of Internal Troops.

Immediate intervention by the USSR president is needed—that is what they think in Baku. [Ismaylov ends]

A Propos

During a press conference [place not given] yesterday, Lieutenant General of Justice A. Katusev, chief military prosecutor and deputy general prosecutor of the USSR, stated that on the night of 28-29 March a guard detail from a troop unit in Armenia was disarmed by unknown persons. The attackers (it is estimated that there were 12 of them) seized 69 submachine guns, 88 pistols, two machine guns, 2,320 pistol rounds, and 58 submachine gun rounds. The military prosecutor's office is investigating the circumstances of the incident, and the territorial prosecutor's office and the militia have been charged with tracking down the attackers.

Media Liaison Issues Report

LD2903221490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1738 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Program entitled: "From the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, MVD, Operational Bulletins;" report by V.A. Yanchenkov, head of the USSR Media Liaison Department]

[Text] Good evening, comrades. The situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan has become aggravated once again. As is known, on 5 March this year, the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted a decision obliging the organs of power of both republics to embark immediately on talks in order to ensure peace and harmony in both republics. And the first steps in that direction are already being taken. But clearly, such a turn of events is not at all to the liking of extremist circles, specifically in Armenia. They do not like the stabilization of the situation. They have again taken up arms. They are again attempting to kindle the fire of interethnic strife. Precisely this is indicated in the operational bulletins that have been arriving here—the duty section of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affais [MVD]—over the past few days.

During the night of 27-28 March, the Azerbaijani village of Alibeili came under fire from the Shamshadinskiy Rayon in Armenia. A militia post staffed by five militiamen was besieged by armed Armenian combatants in Azerbaijan's Tauzskiy Rayon. Throughout the day, inhabited localities in Ilyichevskiy, Babekskiy, and Shakhulskiy Rayons in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic were subjected to fire from various kinds of weapons.

Comrade Zinalov, head of the state-legal department of the party obkom, died from the gunshot wounds received.

Comrade Shatalin, head of the USSR MVD Internal Troops, has urgently departed to the vicinity of the state of emergency. An investigation has been instituted and is being conducted into all instances of extremist action.

A few words about Lithuania. You are quite fully informed about the events in that republic by the mass media. I just want to recall that the USSR MVD has sent several operational groups to the republic in order to help the local militia organs confiscate weapons, investigate crimes, and ensure public order. That's all as far as Lithuania is concerned.

Leaders Call on Gorbachev

LD2903115690 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—One Azeri Muslim was killed and eight others wounded Wednesday [28 March] as fighting erupted between Armenians and Azeris in the border areas of Soviet Azerbaijan and Armenia, reported Radio and Television of Baku Wednesday.

Two of those wounded are in critical conditions, said the radio adding that four armed Armenians were arrested by Azeris during the clashes.

The report added that the border areas specially Kazak Qobadi, Lachin and Babak are unsafe and houses of Azeri Muslims are targetted by Armenians using light and heavy arms.

In a letter, broadcast on Baku Radio and Television, popular leaders and organisations in Azerbaijan have called on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to disarm Armenians immediately and stop their massacring of Azeris.

If the Soviet president would be loyal to the oath he has taken, calm and security will return to the region and the seven million population of Azebaijan would not fall victim to the conspiracies of 140,000 Armenians of Karabakh region, it said.

The letter was also signed by the office in charge of affairs of the Muslim theologians of Caucasia.

Ministry Issues Report

LD2903131690 Mosocw Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A report from the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs press center on the situation in Azerbaijan and Armenia: I'll tell you the main points. Several clashes have occurred during recent days in the broader regions. There are casualties. Thus, in Kazakhskiy Rayon, Azerbaijan, a number of population centers were fired on. There are dead and injured. In Idzhevanskiy Rayon, Armenia, the explosion from an unestablished object in a field killed a herdsman and injured a youth. The situation on some sections of the railway is tense. Locomotive teams are refusing to begin work for fear of terrorist acts. The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs is taking measures to stabilize the situation and to ensure investigation of all cases of crime and unlawful actions. Colonel General Shatalin, chief of the Internal Troops Main Administration of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs has left for the Trancaucasian region.

Azerbaijani Establishments Appeal to Gorbachev

NC2903120490 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT Mar 90

["Text" of the letter sent to President Mikhail Gorbachev by the representatives of the Azerbaijani people; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] To Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union:

We, the representatives of the broad masses of the democratic people of Azerbaijan indignantly protest the criminal activities of Armenia's nationalist circles, which have caused bloody clashes between the two neighboring peoples again. We regard the raids on our republic's border regions from 24-26 March as an unprecedented attack, an armed attempt against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], and the undermining of the principles of the union agreement of the Soviet Federation.

The Armenian combat units' armed raids have angered all our people. The people demand that the ferocious nationalists, who have not been punished for their activities and have disrupted the laws as a result of the opportunity given to them by Armenia's local and republic level organs during the past two years, be resolutely repulsed. Killing citizens; burning people alive, including women and children; taking hostages; and destroying a passenger train carrying more than 1,000 Azerbaijanis are unconscionable acts. The Armenian nationalists have been carrying out these activities at a time when the USSR Supreme Soviet is realizing the measures it recently adopted to stabilize the situation in the region. This is nothing but a shameful challenge to reconstruction and democracy and to jurisprudence and legal work. It only undermines the pillars that support the multinational Soviet state. It is an open exhibition of hostility and hatred for a great nation.

We wish to ask how long the lack of punishment and [word indistinct] will continue? How long will the blood of innocent people continue to be shed? Why is it that 7,000,000 people in Azerbaijan are being sacrificed to the claims of 140,000 Armenian residents of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast? Why is it that a state of emergency is in force in the capital and other important rayons in the Azerbaijan SSR? Why is it that after (?upsetting) Azerbaijan's social, political, and cultural life the sword of justice has become blunted in the Armenian SSR, which has become a center of international extremism and terrorism?

Believing that the Armenian sovereignty organs are unable to control the extremist forces or do not wish to do so and feeling confident that you have the authority and the opportunities you require to establish law and order, we call on you, as the constitutional guarantor of the sovereign rights of the Union republics and the head of the Soviet Union, immediately to take the most categorical and effective measures against the Armenian nationalists and the advocates and organizers of bloody disputes and to disarm and punish the bandits.

We take this opportunity to draw your attention to an inadmissible state of affairs. A number of the Union's press organs, particularly the central television, maintain their intentionally biased reports of the incidents, try to conceal the true state of affairs, and put aggressors and victims in the same basket. Doing so, they weaken the unity of our state. We are convinced that if the president remains loyal to the oath he took before the peoples of the USSR and fulfills his constitutional duties, then law and order will be restored. We shall wait and hope for this.

[Signed] The Benevolent Society, Committee for Popular Support for the NKAO, Association of Refugees, Azerbaijan SSR Women's Council, Vatan Society for Cultural Relations With Azerbaijanis in Foreign Countries, Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Spiritual Administration of the Muslims of the Transcaucasus, Azerbaijan SSR International Fighters Council, and Democratic Union of Azerbaijan SSR's Intellectuals.

Body of Kidnapped Azerbaijani 'Hostage' Found

NC2903154590 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Kubatly—As reported by the republic's newspapers, K. Alekperov, director of the Nazar Geydarov sovkhoz [state farm], and Tel'man Mamedaliyev, the sovkhoz driver, were savagely killed by the Armenian terrorists on 28 November 1989. Mekhti Mekhtiyev, chairman of the (?Nurlu) Town Soviet Executive Committee, was taken hostage by the bandits. After a strenuous four-month investigation, Mekhtiyev's body was discovered in Gorisskiy Rayon at 0200 on 28 March. He was buried in Kubatlinskiy Rayon today.

Situation in NKAO Becoming 'Extremely Complex'

NC2903154190 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 29 Mar 90

[From the republican press review]

[Text] KOMMUNIST has published a report its special correspondents Nezakhet Imamzade and [name indistinct] Sultanov sent from Stepanakert. After informing their readers about the measures taken by the republic's Nagorno-Karabakh Organization Committee, the correspondents note that the raids organized by the armed Armenian bandit groups during the past few days are having effects on the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO]. According to the correspondents, the situation in the NKAO is becoming extremely complex.

Colonel Leonid Popov, commander of the state of emergency region in Agdamskiy Rayon, has given information to the correspondents indicating that conditions are uneasy on NKAO roads. He told the correspondents that the incidents were like the rings of a chain.

Armenian Party, Government Appeal to Population

NC3003081790 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0600 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Appeal by the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers to the population of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed compatriots, the population is showing positive signs of becoming more involved and unified, and this is healthy. Against this positive background, the increasing disruptions of law and order are causing serious concern and alarm. The party, soviet, and law enforcement bodies are working with the public organizations to keep emotions from overflowing and to instill confidence and calmness in the people. Despite that, the situation remains very tense.

In Yerevan and in some regions of the republic the attacks on the city and rayon departments of the Internal Affairs Ministry, Army units, arms and ammunition depots, and the armed guard posts are not ending. Considerable amounts of arms, amunition, and explosives have been stolen, further aggravating the tension and causing negative public opinion concerning our people's genuine desires and aspirations.

The many incidents of death and injury resulting from the armed conflicts and offenses are increasing the number of tragedies for the soviets and the population of the republic. Children, women, and the elderly are among the victims.

During the first three months of this year alone, 48 crimes and incidents involving firearms have been recorded. This is 1 and ½ times higher than the figures for all of 1989. Each weapon a criminal carries is equal to the blood and tears of our relatives and kin.

Diversionary acts have been committed on the railroads, and occupation of public and state buildings and premises and the means of transportation are continuing.

It is imperative to halt the wave of arbitrariness and tyranny. Unpunished crimes and the sorrow and misfortune among our people cannot be allowed.

Regrettably, prudence does not always triumph over elemental dangerous emotions. Unconsidered acts cannot be justified by even the most just demands of our people.

Clashes on interethnic grounds have occurred again during the last few days in the border regions; there are human casualties. Urgent measures are being taken to stabilize the situation and ensure the population's security. Soviet Army forces and USSR Internal Affairs Ministry troops have been concentrated in the regions where a complex situation has developed; militia forces have been reinforced.

The local residents of a number of border areas have expressed unease at the presence in their own territory of independent armed teams that have arrived from the other regions in the republic.

In conformity with the 5 March 1990 decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the situation in the Azerbaijan and Armenian republics and with measures to normalize the situation in that region, the Armenian Republic's law enforcement bodies will take the necessary measures to establish the proper public order, disarm the fighting teams, and confiscate the arms held by the population.

We call on those who hold dear the future of the Armenian people to exhibit prudence, restraint, and self-control; not succumb to provocations; and expose falsehoods exacerbating the tension.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Council of Ministers appeal to all the citizens and resolutely call on them to help the law enforcement bodies in their fight against the crimes, to contribute to stabilization of the situation in the republic, and to assist in the return of illegally seized arms, ammunition, explosives, transportation means, and the arbitrarily occupied buildings. We hope this appeal will be received with understanding and responded to by the people, and that it will register in the heart and mind of each citizen of the republic.
[Signed] Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, Armenian Republic Supreme Soviet, and Armenian Republic Council of Ministers.

Armenian Minister Examines Border Incidents

NC3003100990 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0600 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Statement by the Armenian Internal Affairs Ministry; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The situation in Armenia's regions bordering Azerbaijan was extremely tense during 26-28 March 1990. Exchange of artillery and gunfire came from Araratskiy, Gorisskiy, Vaykskiy, Yeghegnatsorskiy, Idzhevanskiy, Noyemberyanskiy, and Shamshadinskiy Rayons and from the Azerbaijan territory bordering these rayons. Two people were killed and seven taken to the hospital with gunshot wounds. A number of state and private buildings were destroyed in Yeraskh, Armash, and Bartsruni villages.

The procurator of the Noyemberyanskiy Rayon has begun criminal proceedings in connection with the 26 March killing of Ovanesyan, a driver of the Armenian agricultural works, in the Daganis-Ayrum village of the Kazakhskiy Rayon of Azerbaijan and in connection with the bodily injuries caused to Timyazyan, a worker at the state farm of (?Orkor) village in Ashatarakskiy Rayon.

Since 29 March the law enforcement bodies, Soviet Army, and troop subunits of the Internal Affairs Ministry have cooperated in controlling the situation. Urgent measures are being taken to resolve the conflict and prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Armenian 'Bandits' Clash With Soviet Army Units

NC2903132090 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Alibeyli town in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] was fired on from the territory of the Armenian SSR during the night. The exchange of fire between the Armenian extremists and the [words indistinct] army units and local militia workers continued. In general, the situation is extremely tense. Urgent and effective measures must be put into effect to obstruct the attacks of the armed Armenian bandits.

Situation in Kazakhskiy Rayon Reportedly Worsens

NC2903131090 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The situation in Kazakhskiy Rayon's border regions has worsened again. Shamil Allahberdiyev, chairman of the Kazakhskiy Rayon Soviet Executive Committee, explained the situation to an AZERINFORM correspondent as follows:

Azerbaijan's Barkhudarly town is in Idzhevanskiy Rayon in the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR]. The Armenian extremists have been firing on this town since 27 March, but luckily no one has been killed or wounded. A report was received from Barkhudarly on 28 March saying that the local people captured four armed and bearded Armenians. A group of soldiers escorted the bearded Armenians to Kazakh.

One person was wounded by a shell that was fired on lower Askipara from one of the residential areas in the Armenian SSR's border region. The residents of Baganis Ayrum have completely moved out of the town. As reported earlier, the Armenian bandits set 11 houses in the town on fire. Colonel General Shatalin, head of the internal troops who arrived in Kazakhskiy Rayon, has personally observed the armed combatants' movements in the Armenian SSR.

Caucasus

Samarkand Oblast Party Leaders Elected

LD2603171790 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 14 Mar 90 p 1

[Summary] Samarkand, 12 Mar (UzTAG)—The first session of the Samarkand Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies of the new convocation today elected P.M. Abdurakhmanov, first secretary of Samarkand Oblast Party Committee, chairman of the Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies. T.R. Kilichov has been approved as chairman of the Oblast Executive Committee.

Kashkadarya Oblast Receives TV Transmitter

LD2603202890 Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 0115 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Summary] A TV retransmitter has appeared in Mubarek, Kashkadarya Oblast. Local residents can now receive local news on TV. A TV studio has started operating at the House of Young People. The Five-Year Plan notes a relay transmission station will be built in Shakhrisabz, while in Karshi this year construction will start of a TV center. Nine million rubles will be spent on these developments.

New Radio Station Broadcasting in Tashkent

LD2203152490 Tashkent LENIN BAYRAGY in Crimean Tatar 6 Mar 90 p 4

[Text] "ALMALYKTAN AYTAMYZ" ["ALMALYK CALLING" in Crimean Tatar]—This radio announcement can now be heard three times a week in the industrial centre of the republic. Local radio journalists are on the air three times a week. News of the town, topical interviews, and materials on problems are being broadcast.

New Karakalpak Premier Appointed

LD2103001290 Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 0115 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The first session of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [ASSR] of the 13th convocation opened in Nukus. The deputies are discussing questions of the formation of organs of the Supreme Soviet, the formation of the Council of Ministers of the autonomous republic, and other organs accountable to the Supreme Soviet.

Yeshimbetova was elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak ASSR. (Fateyev) was appointed chairman of the Karakalpak Council of ministers. The session is continuing its work.

U.S. Ambassador Visits Uzbekistan

LD2103235390 Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 0115 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Matlock, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, has visited Uzbekistan on a familiarization trip. Yesterday he was received by Karimov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee. The guest was briefed about [words indistinct] of the republic and its development at the contemporary stage. Issues of mutual interest were raised. Taking part in the conversation were Ibragimov, chairman of the Uzbek SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]

Supreme Soviet Presidium; Azimov, foreign affairs minister of the Uzbek SSR. The U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary [words indistinct] Tashkent, and visited Urgench, Khiva, and Samarkand.

Kirghiz Supreme Soviet To Convene 10 April

LD2203030590 Frunze SOVETTIK KYRGYZSTAN in Kirghiz 10 Mar 90 p 1

[Decree of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium]

[Text] On the basis of Article 100 of the Kirghiz SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Constitution, the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees:

To convene the first session of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet 12th convocation on 10 April 1990, in the city of Frunze.
[signed] T. Akmatov, chairman of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.
A. Myrzaliyeva, secretary of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.
City of Frunze, 7 March 1990

Provisional Results of Kazakhstan Vote Reported

PM2803142590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent E. Matskevich report under the general heading "Election Campaign in Progress: Seats Unfilled": "Kazakhstan"]

[Text] The day of the elections of Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] people's deputies was awaited with intense interest by many people. Of the 360 seats 81 had already been filled previously by representatives of social organizations. Electoral commissions had registered 1,077 candidates for the remaining seats, an average of four per okrug. In some places the competition was much greater—as many as 15 contenders, as in Alma-Ata city's Dzhambulskiy Okrug.

Only one-tenth of those on the ballot papers were women, one-fifth were workers and collective farm members. The number of young people was quite small. On the other hand, CPSU members accounted for 87.8 percent of candidates.

The turnout was 83.9 percent.

N. Nazarbayev, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, and U. Karamanov, chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, were victorious in multicandidate okrugs.

According to the preliminary results, runoffs will be held in 126 okrugs. But in 13 okrugs where candidates did not poll the requisite number of votes to continue the contest, repeat elections will be held.

For the first time in our history people undergoing treatment in occupational therapy rehabilitation centers and people on remand or under administrative arrest took part in the voting.

One final point—voters' activeness is declining. In East Kazakhstan, for example, one enfranchised citizen in four did not vote. In Ust-Kamenogorsk just 58.5 percent of the electorate voted.

Soviet Muslim Leader Interviewed on Arab Tour

LD0603232990 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] [Announcer] Mufti Mukhamadsadyk Mamayusupov, chairman of the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, returned recently from a tour of a number of Arab countries which lasted for more than a month. Our correspondent Nikolay Gilikov interviewed him.

[Begin recording] [Gilikov] Good evening, dear listeners. Greetings from this program. The guest of our program today is Mufti Mukhamadsadyk Mamayusupov, chairman of the Muslim Board of central Asia and Kazakhstan. We know that you have visited the Middle East. Would you please tell our listeners about this visit.

[Mamayusupov] In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful. Praise be to God, the lord of the universe. Prayers and peace be on the best of his creation, Muhammad, and on all his family and followers. Peace be on you and God's mercy and blessings.

The visit was at the official invitaion of Dr Abdullah Umar Nasif, secretary general of the Islamic World League [IWL], who invited us to visit the holy land and Mecca to perform the rites of Umrah [minor pilgrimage] and to discuss cooperation between our religious board and the IWL.

On our way to the holy land we visited Syria where we conferred with Minister of Religious Trusts 'Abd al-Majid al-Tarabulsi, and discussed with him cooperation between his ministry and our religious board. Our relations with the Syrian ministry are firm, strong, and long-standing. This time we discussed issues concerning the pilgrimage and the education of students, and we reached good conclusions. then we met with the mufti of Syria and his aides, and we visited the Institute of Jurisprudence, which is sponsored by the mufti, and met with the students and lecturers whom, we addressed and explained the current situation of muslims in our country.

Then we went on to the holy land and Mecca. We performed the minor pilgrimage—we toured the Kaaba and walked between Safa and Marwa, and performed other rites.

After that we met with members of the Islamic International Council for Call and Rescue, which consists of prominent Islamic personalities. The heads of the

Islamic Call and Rescue organizations and institutions have formed a higher council which includes all the organizations and which coordinates their affairs. I addressed this dignified gorup. I explained to them the situation of the Muslims in our country in light of the new policy of perestroyka. They all welcomed these delightful new changes and expressed their readiness to cooperate with us, which very much pleases us.

[Gilikov] Mufti, how do you see the development of cooperation between that organization and the Muslim Board of Central Asia.

[Mamayusupov] God willing, there will be fruitful cooperation. I would like to explain some points.

The IWL is a member of this higher council. We discussed certain things with the IWL. For instance, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, God protect him, has given a gift of 1 million copies of the Koran to the Muslims of the Soviet Union. We discussed with IWL officials the transportation of these copies to the Muslims in the Soviet Union. The IWL accepted responsibility for transporting these copies. Now the matter is about to be concluded, I mean, to be concluded with the Soviet airline Aeroflot. God willing, Aeroflot aircraft will come to Jeddah, pick up these copies, and fly them directly to the Muslim cities in our country, such as Tashkent, Ufa, Baku, and others.

[Gilikov] Do you mean that the journey will be direct?

[Mamayusupov] The journey will be direct—special trips to transport the copies of the Koran—approximately 28 trips. The Saudi interior ministry gave permission for Aeroflot aircraft to land in Jeddah to take the copies of the Koran. This is a blessed matter which is unequaled in the history of the muslims of our country.

There was also an agreement to establish an Islamic printing house in Tashkent with the cooperation of the IWL. There are also scholarships for muslim students to the Islamic universities, and cooperation in the issue of pilgrimage, printing of religious books, translating the Koran in the language of Central Asia, building new mosques and the restoration of the old mosques, and other matters. All of these things were agreed with the IWL.

[Gilikov] in other words, we can say that the results of your visit to Saudi Arabia were very good.

[Mamayusupov] Praise be to God, because he guided us to agree on some things, but the implementation has not yet started. We ask God to make us successful.

We also had a meeting with the International Rescue Organization in Jeddah. This organization has done much for all Muslims. We have also started cooperation with this blessed organization. We agreed to produce a documentary about the life and activities of Muslims in the Soviet Union. This film will be photographed and made by experts from the International Rescue Organization. We also agreed that the Board will receive 1 million plastic syringes, and we will distribute these syringes to the hospitals in Central Asia. The organization has volunteered to send these syringes, which is a very good thing. We also discussed the building of a mother and infant center in Tashkent. There are other things which we agreed, and they are recorded in the minutes of the agreement which was signed by both sides.

We also had the great honor of meeting with the Saudi Crown prince, Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'aziz; also Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'aziz, governor of Riyadh; and Prince Ahmad ibn 'Abd al- 'aziz, governor of Riyadh; and Prince Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who is the Saudi deputy interior minister. These senior Saudi officials expressed their good wishes for Muslims of our country. They all welcomed the current changes in our country, and they made us feel that they are supporting us in these changes and they want more prosperity for all the peoples of the Soviet Union, including Muslims.

[Gilikov] Mufti, apart from the religious topics which were discussed during your visit to Saudi Arabia, did you discuss political subjects?

[Mamayusupov] Naturally, as a member of the Soviet Parliament and a deputy I could discuss political issues. There is currently a particular issue between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia, which is the fact that there is no diplomatic representation. This is a big obstacle in the way of developing relations between the Muslims of both countries, not to mention the peoples and other things. I found in Saudi Arabia a welcome for this matter, whether in the form of opening a bureau for the IWL or the Islamic Resuce Organization or anything else.

[Gilikov] Mufti, during your visit to Saudi Arabia, was there any discussion of the issue of Jewish emigration to Israel?

[Mamayusupov] This issue was among the important of the whole trip, in Syria, in Saudi Arabia, in Kuwait, and also in Egypt. This is because the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Palestine has now extremely annoyed the Islamic world. This is because a large number of Jews is expected to emigrate to the occupied Palestinian territories. Our brothers in the Arab and Islamic countries consider this an injustice to the Palestinian people, because when Jewish emigrants come from the Soviet Union or any other country of the world, they are settled in the Palestinian territories, which has been the homeland of our Palestinian brothers since ancient times.

In other words, these Palestinians are evicted from their homeland by force so that they can be replaced by immigrant Jews. This is a very sensitive issue. When we talk about the rights and freedoms of one people, we must not forget the freedoms, and rights of another people. If we now talk about the right of Jews to emigrate, we must talk about the right of the Muslim Arab Palestinians to establish their independent state and to live in their original homeland. This is inevitable. In fact, we are not against the emigration of the Jews, but we are against the settlement of the Jews in the Palestinian territories. This is an injustice against the Palestinian people. If we are talking about the rights of the peoples, then we must talk about all the peoples.

I think that the stand of the Soviet Union is very good, as it calls for holding a UN Security Council session to discuss the subject of settling the emigrant Jews in the Palestinian territories. This is a good stance, and we support it.

There, we told our brother Muslims, when they asked us, that there is another side, which is the Western side, or the United States and the Western countries which have now halted the entry of emigrant Jews to their countries and which force these Jews to go to the Palestinian territories. This is a conspiracy against the Muslims and the Palestinians. We do not accept this at all.

[Gilikov] At the expense of the Soviet Union.

[Mamayusupov] Definitely! With this scheme they kill two birds with one stone. First they corner the Palestinians, and second they damage the reputation of the Soviet Union.

[Gilikov] Thank you very much. That was my last question in this edition of the program. We thank you for your participation in the "Radio Moscow's Guest" program.

Earthquake in Central Asia; No Casualties

LD3003095190 Moscow TASS in English 0926 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Report by TASS correspondent]

[Text] Frunze March 30 TASS—An earthquake, measuring 6.5 points at the epicentre, occurred on the border between Kirghizia and Tajikistan at 20.19, Moscow time, on Thursday.

The focus of the earthquake was in the area of the Trans-Alai mountain range, 80 kilometers southwest of Sufi-Kurgan village, Kirghizia, a spokesman at the Seismology Institute of the Kirghiz Academy of Sciences, told TASS.

The earth tremor was felt in Sufi Kurgan at 4.5 points and in the town of Osh at three points.

According to preliminary data, there were no injuries or damage.